

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

VOL. XVI

JANUARY, 1926

NUMBER 1

NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Published Monthly by the National Wool
Growers Association Company, (Inc.)
F. J. Hagenbarth, President

Published at 803 McCornick Building, Salt Lake City,
Utah.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

Entered as Second Class Matter January, 1913,
at the Postoffice at Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Conventions and Progress:

The wool growers' conventions, of which five are being held this month, serve a useful purpose apart from the addresses and discussions of the sessions and the work of the committees. Conversation with others in the same business and with those in other branches of the sheep industry has a real business value. All of this is possible in addition to the benefit to be obtained through the convention sessions.

This year's program of the convention of the National Association has been planned to bring up and contribute to the solution of business problems arising on the individual ranches and in the course of business beyond the ranches. To keep pace with the times and to meet the organization of those to whom the products of the ranches are sold, more organized effort is necessary. The manufacturers work together in a thoroughly legitimate way to improve their output, to reduce expenses and to make better sales. Any industry that fails to secure the benefit of such organization effort is handicapped by its own lack of enterprise.

Business Service:

On the whole, the wool and sheep markets of last year were quite favorable to the growers. They cannot reasonably be expected to remain so unless some steps are taken to continue the favorable conditions. In the past occasional good selling seasons have been followed by disastrous slumps and fluctuations and such are certain to return unless something is done to avoid them. On this and similar matters the members of the association must decide in convention as to what the association is to undertake in the way of

business service or educational undertaking.

An organization cannot function up to its opportunities through its officers alone. Activity on the part of members is an essential to the obtaining of results through organization.

Members' Responsibility:

Members of the National Wool Growers Association are especially urged this year to make the convention their own and to present suggestions and ideas as to what should be done. If possible such suggestions should be sent to the secretary in advance of the convention. If this is not done, turn them in upon reaching Boise and then go before the committee considering the subject and explain and ask for the action deemed desirable. This year's work of the association will be more valuable to the members than that of any previous year if the members wish it to be so and will make an effort to lay out the program and have the officers know what is desired and expected.

Australian Land Leases:

The special article in this issue from our correspondent in Australia explains the governmental attitude in that country toward grazing use of public lands. As shown by Mr. Mills, in the cases of Queensland and New South Wales there is a clearly defined plan for encouraging the occupation for grazing of unsettled lands and of giving security and stability to the affairs of the stock owners. This was the policy of the earlier governments in Australia and has always been adhered to as in the interests of the whole country, even in the administration of the Labor party.

Comparisons are apt to be odious, but in studying the effects of different

plans of handling of public lands we can afford to dwell upon the record of Australia, even though it seems like an Utopian dream to the stockmen who have sought to make use of the grazing furnished by the government lands in our western states. The Australian sheep industry has other advantages than that of a steadfast and enlightened land policy. The uniform climate permits stock to remain upon the same land throughout the year. Drought times bring difficulties that are not more serious than our problems of winter storms and in much of the country the feed is never so good as upon much of our own summer ranges, but the plans of breeding and management are adapted to the country. Management is much simplified when there is no distinction between summer and winter country and the same fence holds the stock from one shearing time to the next.

Stability Means Efficiency:

The stability which is so noticeably absent in the enterprises of users of public lands in the United States is the striking feature of the business of the pastoralist in Australia. No unauthorized grazing of public lands ever has been allowed there at any time. The areas provided are sufficient to allow efficient operation and the length of the term is encouragement and guarantee of safety for the best possible in breeding stock, equipment and management. Homesteading, or closer settlement is encouraged, but the government assumes responsibility for determining when and where such is to be done. Lands leased for grazing may be recovered when conditions make safe their use for cropping and in some cases for smaller grazing units. In cases of "resumption" by the state there is full provision for compensation to the occupant for the value of the improvements placed by him.

The lease rates are low, though as suggested by Mr. Mills, the leasehold is in some cases subject to taxation. Further information on this point will appear in a later issue.

What Western Stockmen Want:

It is keenly to be regretted that the laws of land use and disposition that were in effect when our western states were occupied, were not such as were suitable to the conditions. Australia has had that advantage. It is not too late to improve matters greatly through federal legislation concerning the use of the grazing resources of the reserved and unreserved public lands in the United States. In doing so first consideration should be given to those whose position has been recognized in such government regulation as has been done without law, or by the custom and agreements of those who are concerned.

Stockmen of the West whose business is involved with the use of grazing on the government's non-agricultural land ask and want no special favors. They have not asked and are not now asking any assurance or agreement

that can not readily be given in the interests of the whole people. It is unfortunate that many who cannot gather the facts for themselves have been misinformed by occupants of positions that should call for an impartial attitude and unbiased consideration and expression. The record of the hearings held by the Senate Committee on public lands furnish a full and fair statement of the whole matter and fully justifies every suggestion or request made by or for the users of public lands. The volumes of the record have been closely read by members of both branches of the Congress. Action that is just and fair to all interests can confidently be expected. The stockmen have not asked anything else. Provisions of law adequate to define and ensure a stable national policy towards public lands will give the stockmen the stability that the country needs in every essential industry.

Government Control of Crop Exports

The present demand from some of the cornbelt states for governmental action to raise the price of corn calls for consideration anew of the question of action by a government or country for the benefit of a part of its people. The question of the safety of action for the sole purpose of affecting prices also is involved.

The large corn yield of last year caused an unusually large surplus over domestic requirements and therefore a larger amount for export. The domestic price cannot advance much beyond the exporting price, which is seriously low in comparison with the expense of buying and of raising crops in the principal corn growing states.

It is being asked and demanded that the government set up and operate machinery for disposing of the surplus corn abroad and maintain a higher price at home. Little is said of the price of wheat, of which so much was said a few years ago when the same leaders who are now so active had introduced in Congress the McNary-Haugen bill, under which a corporation would

have been set up to export surpluses and to recover losses sustained in so doing from all the producers of the crop so handled.

Hogs were low in price two years ago, but now are profitable. The reduced number of hogs in the country this year has lessened the requirements of corn for feeding and served to increase the surplus. If hogs were more plentiful and selling at an unsatisfactory price, the exportable surplus of pork products would be handled in the same way and for the same purpose that it is now proposed to have the surplus corn disposed of.

Without suggesting whether the demand for this unusual government action comes mainly from those who actually raise corn or from those who publicly advocate what they believe will be approved by farmers, it is worth while to weigh the arguments that are being put forth so persistently and forcefully.

It is claimed that the losses incurred in the exports shipped out by the proposed corporation would really be paid

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by the producers who enjoyed the benefits of the artificially raised domestic price. Even if such a plan is practicable there is left to be considered the ultimate result of its operation and the interests of those who would bear the burden of the artificially maintained higher price on the domestic consumption. With reason for concern as to the effect of over-production apparently removed the plan could be expected to result in larger surpluses, larger losses on them and larger collections from those who sold for home uses. Unless the producers were to be the losers by the operations inaugurated for them there would have to be power and action further to bolster up the domestic price. The only benefit to be secured for the general public through such a course would be the participation in the larger commerce made possibly by greater farmer buying, if such a plan should operate as desired. That it would so operate is highly problematical and an attempt to test the plan by the handling of a year's surplus of any crop is to experiment on a very large scale.

Protective Duties and Prices

There remains to be considered the possible defense for imposing upon the general business and population the cost of the benefit to a comparatively small number. In this phase of the question it has been insisted that there is analogy between the collections of import duties upon imported materials and the proposed plan of price elevation on materials produced in surplus amounts within the country. The argument shows the lack of understanding, on the part of those who advance it, of the real plan and purpose of protective tariffs. Protective duties were and are imposed principally and primarily for the benefit of the nation as a whole. Without them home producers can be and often have been undersold in the home markets. Under such a condition the domestic production is decreased and the dependence increased upon foreign materials to the detriment of the commercial and military strength of the nation and of the well being of

every citizen. The interests of the producers of protected commodities are wholly secondary and incidental to the idea of general interests. The policy which it is now sought to have adopted by our government for the control of prices on a few agricultural commodities is designed wholly for the benefit of a limited number.

Protective tariffs, while they cause some increase in prices, make domestic production and employment greater than it otherwise would be, thereby benefitting those who produce other materials for sale at home or render service in other lands.

Some of the proponents of the new legislative idea urge that governmental price control in the case of corn would only be the equivalent of an offset to what they now pay in prices increased through protective tariffs levied upon commodities not produced in quantities sufficient for domestic needs. In such argument it is forgotten to recognize that practically none of the materials employed in corn production are now dutiable; the amount by which general living expense is affected by present duties is small in comparison to the larger demand from the increased industry. There is no analogy between protective tariffs on deficiency commodities and government price elevation on surplus commodities.

Laws for Opportunity

It does not seem that the friends of the corn growers are well advised in seeking improvement through legislative action. The government has done a good deal in recent years to keep the door of opportunity open to those upon the land. In the Capper-Volstead law there was guarantee of safety for farmers in setting up machinery for orderly marketing. Other laws found necessary to prevent unfair price manipulation in smaller and easily controlled industries were found to be inimical to farmers' action along lines beneficial to all the people and where there could be no danger of monopoly or extortion. By correcting these agriculture was given opportunity to help itself in organizing for business action

as had already been done in other industries. The new law was intended to help all the people by removing obstacles in the way of the farmers.

The Federal Loan Board and the Intermediate Credit Banks are other illustrations of government provision of facilities needed by agriculture in meeting the complexity of modern business and which in the nature of things could not be set up by the industry itself. There may be other things proper and necessary for the government to do in order to make it possible for farmers to help themselves, and the more that is so done, the more does it become incumbent upon those for whom opportunity is kept open to help themselves, individually and through organization.

Balanced Production

Secretary Jardine's program of balanced agriculture merits more active consideration than it has so far received from those who would throw upon the government the whole burden of remedying wrong conditions. There is much to be done in the cornbelt to secure larger production of materials which the country now must import and to lessen the upsetting surpluses of other crops. A better balance between present corn and hog supplies would help materially. Such a balance and similar ones between other crops can be insured by action of existing organizations, provided there exists a willingness and determination to do within the industry itself what can better be done there than by sycophantic appeal to a government already far too deeply involved in the every day business affairs of its citizens. Most of those who are attempting to speak for the distressed corn farmers adhere to the idea of government action. Others reiterate their diagnosis and call for action without commitment as to any plan or method.

General measures have been introduced in Congress calling for all kinds of relief or remedy. Congressmen for Iowa have urged the administration to favor proposals for government action to support prices. President Coolidge

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has announced his readiness to aid in any plan that will make it possible or easier for the corn raisers to effect improvement in their marketing or to secure finances needed for better selling or more diversified production. He has steadfastly opposed any plan based upon a government guarantee or control of prices or of purchases by the government.

The President and Secretary of Agriculture have been fully appreciative of the real situation. The plans they have offered for improvement have not been acceptable to those in the lead of the movement for immediate and direct aid from the government, but there is no indication that the administration will be stampeded into approval of any action which is not consistent with sound economics and wise government.

OUR QUARANTINE REGULATIONS ON IMPORTS

In an address delivered before the fifty-eighth Fruit Growers and Farmer's Convention, held at Sacramento, California, during the week beginning November 2, Mr. A. T. Spencer, president of the California Wool Growers Association, made some very pertinent criticisms in relation to the lack of uniformity in the live stock quarantines of many of the states. He also expressed an opinion that the country was inadequately protected against the introduction of such epidemics as foot-and-mouth disease. His statement that there is duplication and overlapping in the regulatory and scientific work of the United States Department of Agriculture, and his recommendations for the separation of these functions, should engage our attention. The following is a synopsis of Mr. Spencer's address:

"Confidence will be developed by the uniformity of quarantine administered under the same general principles throughout the entire country and our economic structure will not be disturbed as it was during the recent epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease in Califor-

nia. Under present import regulations we will continue to have recurrences of foot-and-mouth-disease within our borders. Quarantines are placed for a protective purpose and are more necessary now on account of increased commerce and travel, as may be noted in the increase of automobile travel personally observed and actually recorded by the California State Automobile Association, and also by the state border inspection service of the California Department of Agriculture. Our import quarantines are absolutely necessary to guard our great industries, particularly live stock and plants. The present Federal quarantine against foot-and-mouth and similar diseases as carried out is not a sufficient protection against such infections being introduced into this country.

"Under our present system certificates of inspection of hides and wool are issued by the United States consular officer in the port of the country where the shipment originates. Some of these officials may have facilities for making inspection, but the majority have not. Even when imports are properly inspected it is not a guarantee that these articles will come to our ports uncontaminated. To eliminate this danger there should be inspection and disinfection of all dangerous imports at port of entry when such imports come from a country where such epidemics exist, and it would seem advisable to add this precaution, although at the present time there are no disinfection plants at our Pacific ports of entry, nor are there established incinerators for the destruction of infected material. These precautions added to the present system of import inspection would be a distinctive safeguard against the importation of destructive and infectious diseases."

Mr. Spencer urged that the work of regulating imports and live stock shipments should be separately conducted in the boards and departments having control of such work in the states and also in the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington. G. H. Hecke
Sacramento, Calif.

TEXAS WOOL GROWERS SUPPORT TARIFF

At the November meeting of the executive committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association of Texas the following resolution was adopted and ordered to be published:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association of Texas, assembled in special meeting at Del Rio, Texas, at 9 a. m., on November 20th, 1925.

WE HEARTILY COMMEND the present Tariff Act insofar as it imposes a duty upon sheep and goats, wool and mohair brought into the United States from foreign countries.

WE URGE THAT in the event of the passage of a Tariff Act replacing the present Tariff Act that the duty on wool and mohair, sheep and goats be not lowered.

WE REQUEST THAT the President of the United States should not under the power given him by the present Tariff Act lower the duty as now laid upon sheep and goats, wool and mohair.

WE COMMEND the efforts of the Honorable C. B. Hudspeth, member of Congress from the El Paso district, for his earnest and consistent efforts and support of an import duty upon wool and mohair, sheep and goats.

WE LIKEWISE THANK Honorable H. M. Wurzbach, of the San Antonio District, the only Republican in Congress from Texas, for his stand upon the Tariff Act as it relates to wool and mohair, sheep and goats.

WE COMMEND the work of the Southern Tariff Association and congratulate the Association and particularly its President, Honorable John H. Kirby, of Houston, Texas, for its accomplishments.

WE ARE NOT FORGETFUL of the earnest and efficient work in this direction done by Honorable George M. Thurmond, late of Del Rio, Texas, our deceased attorney.

RESOLVED FURTHER that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Honorable C. B. Hudspeth, Honorable H. M. Wurzbach, Honorable John H. Kirby, Mrs. Geo. M. Thurmond and Mr. F. R. Marshall, Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association; that a copy be given the press, and that the secretary be instructed to give it such further publicity and make such further use of it as he may deem to be in interest of the Association.

(Signed)

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.

James Cornell, Chairman.
W. O. Schultz.
Abe Miers.
R. H. Martin.
L. B. Cox.
C. B. Wardlaw.
C. C. Belcher.
Sam Oglesby.
E. K. Fawcett.
E. E. Stricklen.
Hal A. Hamilton.
Roy Aldwell.
Frank Montague
George Pepper.

COME TO BOISE!

January 18, 19, 20, 1926

The Sixty-first Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Ass'n

ENTERTAINMENT AND ACCOMMODATION

The Boise Chamber of Commerce and all the city organizations are putting forth special and unusual efforts for the entertainment and accommodation of those attending the convention. There will be a grand ball on Monday evening. On Tuesday evening there will be a banquet with an array of entertainers and speakers very much out of the ordinary. Arrangements already announced by Boise people make certain that their entertainment features will be all that can be desired.

Special arrangements are being made for the entertainment of all ladies present at the convention. The tickets and final information will be given out to those registering at the booth provided for that purpose in the convention hall.

A very unique souvenir badge has been prepared and will be issued at the time of registration.

A large number of comfortable rooms in residences near the hotels and convention hall have been placed at the disposal of the Boise Chamber of Commerce for the accommodation of convention delegates in addition to the regular hotel rooms. Therefore, there need be no fears as to difficulty in securing convenient and satisfactory rooming accommodations. It would be well for those who have not already done so to send their names to Mr. J. A. Harader, secretary of the Boise Chamber of Commerce, giving the number of persons for whom rooms are desired.

THE CONVENTION WORK

Sessions for the convention will be held in The Mosque, which is located two blocks from the Owyhee Hotel.

On Monday, at 10 a. m., Governor Moore will welcome the convention to Boise and to Idaho.

At both Monday sessions there will be opportunity for introduction of resolutions by any member of the association. Such resolutions will be read to the convention and referred to appropriate committees, before whom the author of the resolution can appear and discuss his proposal. President Hagenbarth's annual address and the report of the Secretary-Treasurer as to the work and finances of the association will occupy the remainder of the morning session.

During the other sessions there will be a number of timely and practical addresses. These addresses are calculated to present problems of immediate interest for complete discussion from the floor of the convention and for action by the association. Mr. Geo. K. Bowden, attorney for the U. S. Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, will discuss the status and character of measures introduced in the present Congress in relation to grazing of live stock on government lands. Mr. Paul Clagstone, manager of the Western Division of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, will present the work of that body with particular reference to its agricultural undertakings. The objects, accomplishments and work of the U. S. Packers and Stock-

yards Administration will be presented by Mr. John T. Caine III, chief of that branch of the Department of Agriculture.

On Tuesday an entire session will be devoted to the discussion of the marketing of range lambs. Mr. L. F. Swift of Swift & Company, is expected to make an opening statement. Following this Mr. Hugh Sproat will review the market studies conducted during the last three years by the National Association. The question will then be open for general discussion and suggestion, during which remarks will be made by representatives of the Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City and Denver markets. Following the discussion the matter will be left for further consideration and recommendation by the committee on lamb marketing.

Another important and timely question to be considered by the convention will be that of the cost of producing wool on different types of ranches and in various states. Messrs. Barber of Idaho and Potter of Oregon will present the figures obtained in their states and explain their significance and possible value to individual concerns. It is expected that an official of the U. S. Tariff Commission will be present. If so, he will discuss the methods employed by that body in its last production costs study, which covered the entire western states and foreign countries.

"The Conditions and Prospects of the Wool Manufacturing Industry" will be the subject of an address by Mr. Walter Humphreys, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, Boston, Mass. Under the subject, "Some Phases of Live-stock Finances," Mr. A. C. Williams, member of the Federal Farm Loan Board and in charge of the Intermediate Credit Banks, will explain the need and value of longer-termed live-stock paper and the facilities for discounting the stockmen's notes drawn for periods greater than six months.

The results of eight years' experiments in breeding for improvement of Rambouillet fleeces will be presented in graphic form by Mr. W. A. Denecke, superintendent of the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station.

RAILROAD RATES

Tickets for return trips from Boise will be available at one-half the regular rate, provided 100 or more persons obtain certificates when purchasing tickets to Boise and present the same at the convention. In past years there has been some difficulty in obtaining the return trip rates on account of the failure of some of those attending the convention to secure certificates when purchasing tickets at their home stations. There is no possibility of securing the reduced rate for the return trip unless a certificate is obtained when leaving home.

The rates apply on tickets purchased between January 14th and 20th in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. From Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington, the going dates are January 13th to 18th. All return tickets are good leaving Boise up to January 23rd.

Around the Range Country

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

December brought a great deal of snow, and while it came in several different falls, and served to the temporary advantage of live stock on the range, the ultimate effect was to cause some gradual falling off in connection with the turn to colder weather in eastern counties late in the month. Forage and feed have been plentiful and accessible as a general rule, the field forages having been largely gathered in good condition. Feeding was heavy during the last two weeks where snow was deepest, especially in the southeastern portion. Highways were not very good, being snowbound temporarily in many agricultural sections; they were good in the central and southwestern counties. Live stock average fairly good.

IDAHO

Temperatures have not been severe, as a rule, and live stock having an abundance of range and supplemental feeds, have done well. Only a small amount of feeding has been done to date. Precipitation has come in sufficient quantities and at opportune intervals to afford access to most of the desert ranges, though rain in the feeding lots has made more or less mud and inconvenience. Grain has made a good growth, and the roads have been good, except for mud locally, and especially in the panhandle section.

MONTANA

A spell of severely cold weather late in the month was rather hard on live stock, though all animals were in good flesh, and had plenty of feed, so that the turn to bad weather was not nearly as detrimental as it might have been. Prior to the cold wave very little feeding had been necessary. New snow came with the cold spell, averaging from one to four inches deep on the winter ranges; however, the snow was soft and was considered favorable, in some respects, for the present.

Plains

Conditions are good here (December 21)—very open winter, plenty of feed and sheep fat.

No wool or lambs have been contracted yet, but the talk on prices seems to be about 45 cents for fine wool and ten to eleven cents for lambs.

Dean Weaver.

OREGON

While there has been considerable freezing weather and snow in various sections, live stock have not been greatly affected, continuing in fairly good condition, largely on feed excepting only in western valleys. Good rains have fallen in the west and ample snow in the east, the latter serving to increase the live stock feeding temporarily. Roads were temporarily blocked by snow or made bad by mud, but sunshine in the last week brought improvement.

Antelope

December weather has been very favorable. It is remarkably warm for this time of the year and there has only been an inch and a quarter of moisture. Sheep did well all the month and are in better than average condition. The first half of the breeding season was too dry, but during the latter part conditions were better. About the same number of ewes were bred this year as last.

Feed on the winter range is good.

There is hardly any open range left. Nearly all the land has been filed on under the grazing homestead act and stockmen have to lease or buy it.

Government trappers are keeping the coyotes pretty well down. Ten dollars is asked for alfalfa hay in the stack. The wage for herders and camp tenders is \$75 a month.

H. C. Hooper.

* * *

Antelope

Weather conditions here are very good for this time of the year, but more moisture is needed. The winter range feed is better than for the last three years. More ewes are being bred this winter and they are in fine shape. Herders and camp tenders receive from \$75 to \$90 a month here.

John J. Brogan.

WASHINGTON

Generous rains occurred in the western portion, and snows in the east, though the weather continued mild and there was little suffering among live stock, only a little inconvenience. Wheat has made gradual improvement, having plenty of moisture, and there was little frost in the ground. Pastures improved with the rain. Roads were mostly good through the month. Live stock are in good condition.

Ellensburg

We are having a nice fall and winter so far (December 1). The grass started nicely, and there has been no cold weather. Sheep are in fine shape. Hay sells at from \$9 to \$12 a ton in the stack. Ewes have been changing hands at from \$9 to \$16 a head this fall. Wool is pretty well cleaned up in this section, except what is left in the two warehouses at Portland, Oregon.

K. O. Kohler.

* * *

Hover

We are having a mild winter, but feed has been short, due to lack of moisture. On December 20 we had a

good rain and snow, which will insure plenty of green feed the balance of the winter.

Prospects are good for an open winter, and if such is the case, there will be a surplus of hay in the lower Yakima valley.

Sheep generally are looking good. Lambing will start early in February for shed lambing. Those who lamb on the range will start about the middle of March.

There has been an unusual number of herders seeking employment here this winter, many of them offering to work for their board. However, the regular wage of \$75 to \$85 is still maintained.

J. R. Ayers.

* * *

Grand Dalles

A moderate amount of rain fell during December, but there were no frosts and generally the weather was mild, with feed and stock conditions good.

There is no open range left here. Sheep are run on ranches that are fenced and privately owned.

Coyotes are about as numerous as they have been for the last thirty years. About the only way to prevent them from taking a heavy toll on our sheep is to keep a constant watch.

Wages for herders and camp tenders are \$75 a month.

Leo F. Brune.

* * *

Fallbridge

The days during December have been warm and bonny. Sheep are in good shape, but feed conditions are only fair. There is no open range here any more; the land is all owned by individuals.

Alfalfa hay is quoted at \$15 in the stack. Herders are getting \$75 a month.

Coyotes are about holding their own, but at present a poison campaign is under way and beneficial results are looked for.

J. A. Jaekel.

CALIFORNIA

The weather has been fine, except that rains have been insufficient, and

live stock have not had the best of ranges and pastures, some sections carrying little or no green grass. However, as a rule feed is rated good and cattle and sheep have done very well. Dry feed is generally available where new grass has failed to come; rain is needed rather generally, though light showers have helped locally in the southern portion at the beginning of the new year.

NEVADA

Mild, dry weather has allowed the completion of ranch work ahead of the usual stages generally. Live stock have continued to thrive, and there is an abundance of range forage and supplemental feeds available. An unusually large number of cattle are being fed in the Lovelock and Newlands project districts, where hay is abundant; many sheep and cattle are also being fed on the far western ranches. The moisture supply has continued ample, though not abundant, on the desert ranges. Snow should come soon. Large numbers of cattle have been shipped to California.

Wellington

Sunshiny days and cold nights have made up December weather. The winter range feed is good, but snow is needed. A little snow would make breeding conditions better also. The ewes are in fine shape.

The open range is gradually diminishing here. Coyotes, too, seem to be decreasing in number here.

One hundred dollars is the wage paid to herders and camp tenders.

F. W. Simpson.

NEW MEXICO

Mild, dry weather has characterized the month, and a more or less general shortage of moisture for live stock was reported, though with good feed and the open weather, most animals remained in rather good condition. High, drying winds damaged some ranges on the plains sections. The only snow of importance on the winter ranges was confined to the eastern counties.

Encino

We have had a very fine winter here and feed and stock conditions are good. Weather was favorable during breeding season and a few more ewes were bred this year than last year.

Celestino Garde.

* * *

La Plata

Winter feed is only fair, as we have had very little moisture. December has been a dry, warm month. The bands are in good shape, however, and breeding was done under favorable weather conditions with about five per cent more ewes being bred.

The range here is not so good as in years past.

Heather Bros.

WESTERN TEXAS

Live stock and ranges are from fair to good as a rule. There has been a great deal of cold weather, but this inclemency was not attended by severe snows or winds, and hence did no great harm to cattle. Feed has been plentiful over practically the entire district, and very little supplemental feeding has been done. Drought has depreciated the pasturage in central Texas localities.

Eldorado

We had a light snow here today (December 15), but otherwise the weather has been fine, although somewhat dry. The winter feed is good now and a little rain would bring on the weeds. The ewes are in good condition and breeding conditions are favorable.

We pay our ranch hands from \$45 to \$75 a month. There is no open range here. The land is all fenced with net wire, and therefore herders and camp tenders are not used, but riders who ride the fences, windmills, etc.

No alfalfa is raised here.

J. V. Taylor.

ARIZONA

Cold, inclement weather at times prevented important gains in live stock, but practically all animals were doing well at the end of the month, and forage was generally reported good,

with plenty of moisture available. In general rain is needed, though the lack of washing precipitation in the lower, warmer sections has preserved the nutriment in the forage, and feed continues good.

UTAH

Unusually pleasant weather has prevailed, the direct effect being highly favorable to live stock, but there has been a dearth of storms and most of the desert grazing areas have lacked moisture rather seriously. These remote ranges carry good feed, but in the absence of snow they have been but slightly grazed so far. However, live stock have done very well, and those on feed in domestic pastures or lots have not consumed much feed. Snow is ample temporarily on local areas in the east and southwest portions, from storms at the beginning of the new year.

Cedar City

December has been delightfully warm, but dry, and feed on the range is only fair. The ewes are in good shape and they are being bred under favorable weather conditions. Our bands are about the same size as usual.

We pay our herders \$75 a month. Alfalfa hay is worth \$12 in the stack.

Our open range is better than for a number of years past. Coyotes are not bad in this locality. Wm. Williams.

* * *

Loa

Our open range is not so good as in years past, as we have had very little snow the last two winters. At present the feed on the winter range is not very good. It has been just like summer here all during December, warm and dry. While not so good for the feed, it has been fine for breeding. Our ewes are in good shape, and the bands are about as large as a year ago.

Herders get \$80 a month and camp tenders, \$75. Eight dollars is the price placed on alfalfa hay in the stack here.

We are still having considerable losses through coyotes.

Geo. W. Okerlind

COLORADO

Snow has covered the state most of the month, grain fields being under cover generally. Live stock necessarily have been subjected to comparatively severe conditions, especially in the eastern half, though west of the main mountain range the grazing areas were improved by the snow. Highways were blocked by snow in many sections, at least temporarily, though most crop hauling had been done previously. Feeding has been necessary, and rather heavy in places, east of the mountains, and some shrinkage was noted. Most live stock are in good condition. New snow fell in the southwestern portion at the beginning of the new year.

Monte Vista

We have been having fairly decent weather lately (December 31), although the snow we had the first part of December is still with us and looks as if it would be here till at least the first of February. The average flocks of ewes are in good condition, and we have had good breeding.

Hay is priced at from \$8 to \$10 a ton and corn is \$1.75 a hundred. The snow has been rather severe on the lamb feeders, as they have had to keep them on fresh feed. However, the lambs are all making good gains, and if prices hold up, the feeders will make a little money.

Not a word about wool here yet, but we are hoping for fair prices.

E. R. King.

Saguache

We have had very mild, open weather during December; there is no snow in the valleys. There is not much open range left here, and practically all stock are under fence and on feed. The ewes are in good condition, better than usual. Most of the old ewes were kept this year and our bands are about ten per cent larger than a year ago.

Coyotes kill about five per cent of our lambs and three per cent of ewes every year, and dogs are also the cause of some loss. I have killed ten dogs on my ranch this month.

Saguache wools, which totaled 500,-

000 pounds, sold early in July for 42½ cents. The average weight of fleeces was eight pounds. Lambs sold for 12½ to 13 cents at an average weight of 68 pounds. There were 30,000 of them from this district.

Hay is selling at from \$10 to \$12 in the stack. Herders and camp tenders are getting from \$50 to \$75 a month.

J. L. Gotthelf.

Grand Junction

There are a good many thousand lambs being fed on the western slope, mostly on beet tops and alfalfa hay. This has been a mild winter so far. Practically all the ewe lambs were held back and most of the old ewes. Several thousand ewes have been sold here at from \$8 to \$15.25, according to age and quality.

Raymond W. Scott.

Limon

We have had fine weather all during December, with just enough snow for grazing. Seven above zero is the coldest we have had it. Feed conditions are fair, but most of the sheep are fed during breeding. The ewes are in fair to good condition. We are breeding about ten per cent more than in 1924.

Hay is selling at \$15 in the stack.

We do not have any open range here; a good many sheepmen lease the lands they need for grazing, and these lands are about as formerly so far as condition is concerned.

Woerner Pauls.

Haswell

Conditions here are very good. We had very nice weather during December, with just enough snow; there is plenty of roughage and good grass on the winter range; the ewes are in better shape than last year; and the breeding season could not have been better, so far as the weather is concerned. We did not breed so many ewes this year, I estimate about a third fewer.

We have plenty of open range and it is extra good. Coyotes are not very troublesome, as there are plenty of hounds in the neighborhood that keep them cleared out.

We still have our 1925 wool, with the best offer for it so far, 38 cents.

C. H. Davis.

Some Conditions Regulating Grazing on Crown Lands In Australia

By A. C. MILLS, Melbourne, Australia

In view of the interest roused at the Salt Lake City conference last August on the question of control of grazing on government lands in the western range states, Secretary Marshall suggests I should give some information relative to leasehold conditions in Australia. This is done in the following article which, although it does not profess to cover the whole ground, will give readers a fair idea of the ordinances and rents relating to grazing on crown, i. e., government, domains in the Commonwealth.

First and foremost it must be explained that we really have nothing analogous to national forests, public domains, or national parks, where common grazing is allowed in this country. Broadly speaking, a sheep or cattle man who wants grazing country (a) buys the freehold outright, (b) buys the lease of a defined and probably improved area of crown lands from another selector, (c) leases an unoccupied or unimproved crown land direct from the government, or, (d) depastures his stock on somebody else's lease or freehold, paying weekly, monthly or annual fee per head.

The first proposition, that of purchasing freeholds, is probably much the same all the world over and needs no elaboration. The purchase of a lease and the taking up of new country under lease, fall under the one head, as the same laws and conditions cover both. It is these that will therefore be dealt with. Here again, though, it is necessary to explain that the basic conditions are different from the United States, in that all unalienated lands, except those in Federal Territory, are the property of the state governments within whose borders they lie. Each state has its own laws, which as there are six states, to say nothing of the Federal government which controls the Northern Territory, makes it difficult to be concise. Per-

haps, under the circumstances, it will be advisable for me to deal with only two states. I will take New South Wales first, as being the largest stock holder.

Leases in New South Wales

The principal tenures under which grazing land is leased in New South Wales are:—Western Lands Leases, Conditional Leases, Crown Leases, Settlement Leases, and Homestead Farms. Over 75,000,000 acres are held as western lands leases, practically the whole of the western division of the state now taken up being held under this class of occupancy. (The total area of the state is 198,000,000 acres). The method of procedure for settlement is for the government to declare specified crown lands open for lease at a given rent, which naturally varies according to the class of country and convenience to markets. However, the

Western Lands Act provides that no yearly rental may be less than 60 cents per square mile or more than 14 cents per sheep on the carrying capacity. As the bulk of the country may be considered one sheep to ten acres territory the rent might possibly be as high as \$8.40 per square mile. As a matter of fact it averaged \$3.60 a few years ago for the 73 million acres then occupied, and is probably a shade less now. The act provides that the rents are to be appraised every year and the increase or decrease, if one is made, must not exceed 25 per cent of the previous rate.

The western division of New South Wales, it may be mentioned in passing, is mainly open plain country, extremely healthy for sheep and cattle, but unfortunately not particularly well watered. In a good season it carries fine fattening feed in the nature of native



A pastoral scene in the newer country of New South Wales. Much of the Australian grazing country is lightly timbered with eucalyptus, which, in some cases, is removed to promote the growth of grass.

grasses, herbage and edible scrub, including salt brush. When dry, which is often, stock largely depend on the scrub and can hold their own if they can get water. It is this uncertainty of the seasons that makes it advisable to keep the country lightly stocked. Water is usually obtained by artesian and subartesian bores, and by sinking wells. Open earth tanks are also used extensively. Of recent years wild dogs (dingos) have become very troublesome in this country and some settlers have been forced to give up sheep in favor of cattle. Some of the holdings run up to and over 350,000 acres, and while they are generally fenced, the cost of dog proofing the boundry is almost prohibitive.

A fairly typical illustration of a western land lease property, of which I have been able to obtain some particulars, is the Mount Manara run. This is moderately good country, not the best in the division, and comprises 193,419 acres, of which 320 round the homestead are freehold. The run is located forty miles from the nearest railroad. The annual rent is \$224.22 equaling eight tenths of a cent per acre, or below the average. It is at present carrying 16,750 good type sheep, 50 bullocks, and 35 horses.

With regard to other popular descriptions of tenure in New South Wales, conditional leases, under which some 14,000,000 acres are alienated, is a form of lease-hold granted to a holder of what is known as a conditional purchase area. The latter represents a relatively small block, the freehold title of which is being obtained on extended terms at a nominal rate on certain conditions such as fencing and residence. The area of the lease cannot exceed three times that of the conditional purchase block, which limits it to about 2000 acres under the most favorable conditions. The lease term is for forty years and the rent fixed by local land boards for three periods of fifteen, fifteen and ten years. For the whole state it averages about 4 cents per acre. It is a useful provision as it allows a man with small capital to se-

cure a moderate area of reasonably good country.

Crown leases are areas thrown open by the government for a term of forty-five years, the annual rent being 1.25 per cent of the value of the land, which is reappraised every fifteen years. The lessee is obliged to reside on his lease for at least five years. There are nearly 5,000,000 acres held under these conditions.

Settlement leases are areas, which in the case of grazing country may go up to 10,240 acres per lease, that are let to approved applicants for fifteen years, the rent being fixed for two periods of fifteen and ten years. The lessee has to reside on the land for five years, fence it within that period and conform to regulations regarding noxious animals and weeds. A man already holding a settlement lease may obtain another under certain conditions. Over 3,800,000 acres are occupied under these terms, the average rent being about 6 cents per acre.

It is quite impossible to say what the grazing capacity of these different classes of leases is, for they vary so much. Some would probably not carry more than one sheep to ten acres and others one to two acres. I think the whole might possible average one to four acres all the year round, in a normal season, or even a shade more, say one to three and a half.

Homestead farms, which represent 3,300,000 acres, are comparatively small blocks that are leased in perpetuity at a rental of 2.5 per cent of the capital value which, after the expiration of twenty-five years, is reappraised every twenty years. Residence is obligatory for five years, and the holder may, during the first five years, in lieu of paying rent, expend during each year a sum equal to not less than the amount of the rent, in effecting improvements. This class of land is usually of fairly high carrying capacity, say one sheep to two or three acres, and is probably relatively dear in the matter of rent, although I cannot give specific figures.

There are a number of other forms

of tenures in New South Wales such as occupation licenses, snow leases, scrub leases, but the aggregate of land held under any one is not great, showing that none are particularly popular. The occupation license is the nearest approach we have to American range grazing. Under its terms a stockman may acquire the right to run sheep or cattle on a given area of crown lands. The license is only renewable from year to year and the fees liable to re-determination annually. The rent received works out at approximately 3 cents per acre for the 2,500,000 so occupied. The averaging carrying capacity would probably not be better than one sheep to five or six acres.

Scrub leases refer generally to inferior lands that can be obtained for terms up to twenty-eight years, and snow leases to country that may be under snow part of the year. Both are therefore cheap.

Queensland Leases

Queensland is the second largest state in point of live stock population and is remarkable for the fact that the government in 1916 passed an act providing that crown lands not already bought outright or conditionally acquired should not be alienated to selectors in fee simple. In other words freeholds of crown lands cannot now be bought at any price. The area of the state is 429,120,000 acres, and of these only 24,700,000 (5.7 per cent) were alienated absolutely or in process of alienation on December 31, 1923. Of the balance no less than 307,000,000, or 71.7 per cent was held under lease or license and 22.6 per cent unoccupied or taken up as roads and reserves.

The most popular tenure in Queensland is the pastoral lease, nearly 190,000,000 acres being held in this way today. Large areas of crown lands are thrown open for selection as pastoral leases from time to time, the government announcing the maximum area any one man can take up and conditions relative to fencing and improvements. The term must not exceed thirty years but may be for less. The rent for the first ten years is announc-

ed in the "Gazette" and for subsequent periods of ten years it is fixed by the land court. I have on my desk an official gazette relative to these rents by which I see the annual charge ranges from \$1.20 to \$28.80 per square mile. Probably a little over 2.5 cents per acre would be a fair average for land capable of running one sheep to three acres. Some of the pastoral lease holdings contain over 500,000 acres.

Here is an illustration. Kensington Downs run, situated in the Mitchell district, which contains some of the best sheep country in Queensland and that is saying a lot, is 158,020 acres. The annual rent works out at 3.1 cents an acre. It is at present lightly stocked, holding only 48,000 sheep. Kensington Downs is fifty-six miles from the nearest railroad.

Grazing selections, under which heading 80,000,000 acres of Queensland are occupied, are similar to pastoral leases in the matter of rents. The area held by one person though is limited to 60,000 acres and the selection has to be surrounded within three years with a vermin proof fence. The rent is adjustable at seven year periods. The annual rent of new areas opened up last year was 1.82 cents per acre.

Unsatisfactory as occupation licenses might appear to be, it being necessary to renew each year, nearly 35,000,000 acres are held under this form of tenure, generally by the holders of the more stable leases or grazing selections. Obviously no improvements or fencing conditions are imposed. The government "Gazette" before me shows that while areas range from one to over 800 square miles, the average is not very large, say 20,000 acres. The rents cover a wide spread, but in good sheep country it would scarcely be 2 cents per acre a year. Apparently there is greater security of tenure than appears on the surface, for graziers hold licenses for years and have little trouble in obtaining renewals.

According to the annual report of the Department of Public Lands for 1924 the average rent chargeable by the government on areas then held un-

der pastoral leases and occupation licenses was \$5.92 per square mile, or say .93 cents per acre. This was for all classes of country, including cattle grazing and very poor lands. Owing to the depression in the cattle industry the government made a special review of rents of leases and licenses devoted solely to cattle breeding during the year and materially reduced the rent of most, some by as much as 50 per cent. This reduced the aggregate rent to the above figure.

Perpetual lease selections are the nearest one can get to freeholds in Queensland now, that is for crown lands. The area of any one holding is restricted to 2560 acres and the applicant has to reside on the property for five years. The annual rent during the first fifteen years is 1.5 per cent of the notified capital value, and for each fifteen years thereafter is determined by the land court. Where the land is in a prickly pear area the maximum allowed to one person may exceed 2560 acres. A condition of perpetual lease selections in prickly pear areas is the destruction of the pear thereon and the rent for the first thirty years a peppercorn. For each thirty years thereafter it is 1.5 per cent of the unimproved capital value as determined by the prickly pear land commission.

The total area of perpetual lease selections taken up in 1923 was 3,147,890 acres. During 1924 an aggregate of 85,296 acres was successfully applied for as perpetual lease prickly pear selections, the average capital value of which was fixed at \$1.30 per acre, which will represent an annual rental of 1.9 cents per acre when payments become due.

The fact that Australia has reached its present eminence as a wool and mutton producer, with nearly 95 per cent of the occupied country held as leasehold, is sufficient proof that the system of land tenure is economically right. The great weakness undoubtedly lies in the fact that the government is the landlord, and it is a weakness that is impossible to overcome. When an individual contracts to lease

a block of land to another he is bound to observe the conditions by the courts. Governments, on the other hand, are supreme in the matter of laws and have been known to alter them to suit their purposes. This happened a few years ago in Queensland when a needy labor administration passed an act empowering it immediately to reappraise rents of pastoral holdings, irrespective of the date of review set out in the contract. What is more, it increased the rates very materially, and many lessees have had to pay the extra ever since. Lately, it is true, it has developed somewhat of a conscience and enacted another law whereby rents of cattle properties have been reduced. That the terms should have been altered one way or another was absolutely wrong and has created a dangerous precedent.

P. S.—In case there should be any misunderstanding, I must make it plain that the rents charged by the government quote in the foregoing are in all cases on the unimproved value of the land. The improvements, whether in the nature of buildings, fencing or water supply, except artesian in certain cases, are put in by the lessee at his own expense. The cost of these improvements naturally differs very considerably. One man may build a stone house worth over \$25,000, and another a wooden cottage at less than \$5,000. In vermin infested country a wire netting boundary and even subdivisional fences may be necessary, while elsewhere five plain wires will meet the case. An adequate vermin-proof fence, i. e., 3'6" netting and 8-gauge wire, costs from \$300 to \$400 per mile and a plain wire fence might easily work out at over \$150 a mile. In addition the lessee has to pay all taxes, local and national, on the land.

It should also be remembered that these leaseholds furnish grazing for the entire year. In normal seasons there is very little movement of stock for the purpose of reaching other grazing feed. The sheep and cattle remain in the same pasture throughout the year.

The Tariff and Clothing Prices

The question of the relationship of wool prices and clothing prices is of vital interest to both wool growers and buyers of woollen goods. The latter, however, seldom understand the slight influence of raw wool prices upon prices of finished cloth or garments. When the wool market is buoyant, the large amounts going to growers constitute a standing explanation which is offered by retailers to their customers. The following article, written by one who is a recognized expert in the woollen trade and in connection with tariff matters, is reprinted from the Quarterly Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers:

While the present tariff was under discussion extreme statements were broadcast concerning the alleged cost of the wool duty to the consumer. This propaganda was so obviously disseminated for political purposes that a thorough analysis of the wool duty in all its implications was prepared in an attempt to arrive at the real facts. This analysis completely refuted the wholly erroneous statements which had been exploited by those who opposed the wool duty. The latter is far from perfect, but it is a great improvement on earlier tariffs. Further analyses were made, based on prices and related data at the subsequent heavyweight and lightweight openings of the American Woollen Company. Each addition of fact merely served to expose more thoroughly the propaganda just referred to. No answering argument was ever prepared by those who would seem to have had an interest in doing so. They evidently knew full well that the real evidence was ill-suited to their purposes.

The present duty has now been in effect for over two years. In the meantime an abundance of material has become available which fully agrees with the researches already published. The Fairchild publications have assembled excellent data bearing on clothing prices, and from sources entirely without bias. Investigations into wage rates and hours of labor have been made and the results published by the Federal Government. Sufficient time has elapsed to permit trustworthy inferences to be drawn from comparisons of price trends in other industries and commodities with such trends in wool, cloth, and clothing. Each additional fact the more completely refutes the allegations of those who opposed the wool duty. The more significant of these data are prepared below.

Changed Wool Prices Since Pre-War Years

Thus wool prices have changed remarkably since pre-war years. It was maintained by those who favored the present duty that variations in future prices of clothing would be more largely affected by the course of wool prices than by the tariff. And if wool prices show substantially the same relation to the pre-war base as other cost factors, then this contention is upheld. If wool prices show a smaller change with respect

to that base than other factors of equal or greater importance, such contention is the more strikingly supported. The scoured pound prices of Territory wools, as quoted on the Boston market from October to December inclusive, each year, show the following changes:

Index of Average Prices of Territory Wools, Boston, with 1911-1913 as Base (100).				
1911-1913	1919	1922	1924	
Index of prices 100	—300	214	248	
Variation from base	+200	+114	+148	

In the weaving of cloth, labor, on the average, has been nearly as important as the cost of raw wool. The cost of labor, per week, has varied as follows:

Index of Average Full-Time Weekly Wool Mill Wages, with 1911-1913 as Base (100).				
1911-1913	1920	1922	1921	
Index of Weekly Wages 100	310	236	250	
Variations from Base	+210	+136	+150	

But the hours worked per week have been greatly decreased since 1911-1913, and the average hourly wage is a better measure of changes in conversion cost in domestic wool textile mills. The trend in hourly wages is shown below:

Index of Average Hourly Wool Mill Wages, with 1911-1913 as Base (100).				
1911-1913	1920	1922	1924	
Index of Wages 100	362	273	300	
Variation from Base	+262	+173	+200	

It will be noted that the cost of raw wool per scoured pound has increased less at every stage than the cost of wool textile labor. And it is very evident that the wholesale price of cloth must have increased greatly, by 1924, both as compared with the pre-war base and with respect to prices in 1922. The prices paid for standard woollen and worsted suitings by the wholesale clothing manufacturers whose operations were investigated by the Fairchild publications have varied as shown in the following:

Index of Average Prices, Standard Woolen and Worsteds Suitings, with 1911-1913 as Base (100).					
	1911-1913	1919	1920	1922	1924
Index of Prices, Suitings.....	100	230	319	192	227
Variation from Base.....	—	+130	+219	+92	+127

High Wool Prices and Wages Reflected in Cloth Prices.

It will be noted at once that the very high wool prices of 1919 were reflected in the cloth prices of 1920, as were the wages of mill workers for the later year. The depression in wool prices of 1921 and the recession in mill wages of 1922, likewise, were reflected in 1922 cloth prices. The subsequent rise in price of cloth only paralleled the accompanying increase in wool and wages; in fact, fell short of doing so. It seems very evident, therefore, that the wool textile mills cannot justly be accused of profiteering. And it would be indeed difficult to prove that the tariff on wool has added appreciably to the price of cloth. In fact, one of the outstanding grievances of the wool growers has been that Boston prices for domestic wools have consistently lagged behind import parity, i. e., have failed to maintain the level above foreign prices for comparable wools that the duty and handling charges would seem to warrant. The United States produces nearly 60 per cent of the improved wool that is consumed in

this country. With more than half of the consumption consisting of domestic wools, and with the price of these substantially below import parity during most of 1923 and all of 1924, yet with 1924 cloth prices falling fully to reflect increases in wool prices, and falling far short of reflecting gains in raw material costs when the landed cost of foreign wools is considered, it would appear an act of folly to charge wool tariff with any important effect on cloth or clothing prices.

Wholesale Clothing Prices Did Not React Fully to Higher Cost Factors.

With the price of standard suitings, the principal raw material of ready-made clothing, lagging below price levels which would have been justified by raw material and labor costs, it might seem logical to expect that the wholesale price of ready-made clothing should likewise have failed fully to react to cost factors making for higher prices. This is precisely what has happened. Moreover, the wages paid to workers in the manufacturers' lofts have risen even more than wages paid to wool textile mill hands, yet even this primary factor in wholesale clothing costs has failed to react fully on the wholesale price of clothing. These loft wages are shown below:

Index of Average Full-Time Weekly Wages in Men's Wholesale Clothing Factories, with 1911-1913 as a Base (100).

	1911-1913	1919	1922	1924
Index of				
Weekly Wages 100		170	257	270
Variation from				
Base	—	70	157	170

But, just as in wool textile mills, the full-time week has been greatly shortened since 1911-1913—from 54 to 44 hours, in fact. The change in average full-time weekly wages, therefore, furnished a less reliable basis for comparison than do changes in average wages per hour. The latter, therefore, are noted in the following:

Index of Average Wages per Hour in Men's Wholesale Clothing Factories, with 1911-1913 as a Base (100).

	1911-1913	1919	1922	1924
Index of Hourly Wages	100	190	210	324
Variation from the Base	—	90	110	224

In comparison with the foregoing the increases in wholesale prices for men's ready-made clothing are rather striking. The statistical department of the Fairchild publications has prepared a comparison of the wholesale prices for standard suits and overcoats for the past fourteen years, i. e., 1911-1924, inclusive. Four price grades, from low to high, for fifteen representative factories, were studied for strictly comparable dependable figures. The source of the data, and the character of its publishers, lend an especial value to this piece of research, the first of its kind ever done in the United States. The results thereof are shown below:

Index of Average Prices for Men's Standard Ready-made Suits and Overcoats, with 1911-1913 as a Base (100).

	1911-1913	1919	1920	1922	1924
Index of Suit Prices	100	191	289	197	222
Variation from the Base%	—	+ 91	+189	+ 97	+122
Index of Overcoat Prices	100	160	287	181	205
Variation from the Base%	—	+ 60	+187	+ 81	+105

Clothing Manufacturers Forced to Utmost Economies.

When the trend of these clothing prices is compared with wages and raw materials, it is quite evident that, just like the wool textile mills, the manufacturers of clothing have been forced to the utmost economies, and to work for the fullest possible volume, in order to wholesale their products at prices which fall far short of reflecting changes in labor costs. No charge of profiteering can properly or justly be brought against them.

But this advance in clothing prices is rather striking, just as is the rise in price of standard suitings. Do other textiles show comparable price changes? The price of trimmings (standard sateens) has increased even more than that of woollen and worsted fabrics. Cotton is on the free list, yet raw cotton and cotton fabrics virtually parallel wool, wool fabrics, and wool clothing in their upward price trends. Middling upland cotton on the New York market was 130 per cent higher in price in 1923 than in 1913; brown cotton sheeting was up 100 per cent; print cloth, 117 per cent; yarn dyed gingham was up 118 per cent; percale, 128 per cent, and bleached white shirtings, 145 per cent in 1923 as compared with 1913. There has been a further rise in 1924.

Prices for Carpets on Parity with Standard Suitings.

Carpet wool is on the free list for use in floor coverings, but in 1922 the price of standard carpets and rugs averaged more than twice as high as in 1914, and since then has risen to a parity with standard suitings. And, just as in other textiles, this rise in prices has resulted in part from world-wide increases in raw material costs, and in part from enhanced labor costs.

Labor Costs Important Factor in Higher Post-War Prices.

As has been noted in the foregoing discussion, labor costs have played a very important role in the enhanced post-war price levels. In these labor costs the century and a quarter of protection which has been enjoyed by the industry of America has played a vital part. It at once might be suggested that the present tariff has been primarily responsible for the recent upturn in wage levels. Such a claim, however, would be as poorly based as earlier claims with respect to the tariff on wool and its effect on clothing prices.

It must be remembered that the United States at last has seen the wisdom of adopting restrictive immigration in its attitude toward the hordes of foreign peoples seeking entry into America and the enjoyment of the privileges resulting from American residence. We have waited long, too long, before taking this step, the permanence of which now seems assured. Such restriction, occurring when our industries were just recovering from post-war reconstruction, had an immediate and logical effect on wage levels. The wage earners have made full use of the opportunity presented to them, possibly, as some persons seem to believe, have made unwise use of it. This, however, is a matter which will furnish its own remedy. It at present may be likened to a boil—and a boil in most cases supplies its own cure. There is nothing at present to be feared as a result of what properly may be considered a temporary maladjustment between capital and labor.

Does the Retailer Get Too Much Margin on Sales of Clothing?

There is one other factor in clothing prices which remains to be considered. This concerns the retailer. There seems to be a widespread belief that he is taking too wide a margin in his merchandising of ready-made clothing. Unfortunately, there is an entire dearth of accurate, up to date information with respect to this final and important link between the consumer and the producer of raw wool. With the retailer the tariff has no direct connection. However, it is claimed to be possible for the retailer largely, or entirely, to nullify advantages to the consumer, which should result

from the tariff, and likewise greatly to magnify any apparent or alleged disadvantages. In any case, a reasonable margin taken by the retailer would so far exceed any cost to the consumer of the duty on wool as to make the latter of little or no practical importance. If the retailer is taking an unwarranted margin, as has been claimed, that fact should be made known, and the converse likewise is true. In justice to the retailer, therefore, as well as to the consumer, there is need for a searching, entirely impartial investigation of the retail clothing trade by the proper department of the government.

Championship Day at the 1925 International Sheep Dog Trial

Two years ago in the December issue of the National Wool Grower, a very graphic description of the International Sheep Dog Trial of that year was given. We are again offering our readers a partial reprint from an English paper, The North British Agriculturist, covering that event, which took place at Crickieth, Wales, on Septem-

was the same as at Ayr last year. In gathering, the dog was first sent about 700 yards for one lot of ten sheep (unseen), which had to be brought through a gate in the center of the course, where the dog was re-directed for another lot of ten (unseen), which also had to be brought through the gate and united with the first lot. Fail-



Mr. Alick Millar, brother of Wm. Millar, Mt. Pleasant, Utah, receiving the Scottish Cup for the third and last time. At the 1925 International Sheep Dog Trials, Mr. Millar won the Shield for the champion dog.

ber 24th and 25th. The affair this year has an added interest for western sheepmen in the fact that the owner and trainer of the champion dog is Mr. Alick Millar, a brother of Mr. Wm. Millar of Mount Pleasant, Utah. The story printed below is of the championship day, the second day of the trial, the first being devoted to the selection of the dogs to try for the championship.

Details of the Course

"Slightly altered in details, the course

ure to negotiate the gate with either lot involved a loss of points in the judges' discretion according to circumstances, and no re-try was permitted. Both the dog and first lot of sheep had to pass the gate before the dog was re-directed for second lot. In driving away the sheep were to be driven from where the shepherd stood in triangular direction through two gate obstacles back to shepherd. Failure to negotiate the the gates involved a los of points in

judges' discretion according to circumstances, and no re-try was permitted at either gate. In shedding twenty sheep were to be run off between shepherd and dog, and dog brought in to stop and turn back five marked sheep. Maneuvering for "cuts" was forbidden. Until the five marked sheep were shed off, penning was not permitted. In penning five marked sheep were to be penned in an enclosure six feet square with gate. Competitor was to stand at gate end holding rope (two feet), while dog worked sheep into pen. A competitor who left the gate end before being ordered to do so by the judges lost points in their discretion. The points given were: Gathering, 15; driving, 10; shedding, 10; penning, 5; style, 5; command, 10—total, 55. The time limit was thirty minutes, which could be extended in the judges' discretion. If not stopped sooner by the judges, or if time limit was not extended, a dog was called off on expiration of time limit, but its points to the stage at which it was called off counted. Time taken might be a factor in the judges' discretion in arriving at their awards.

"The championship dogs being run in the order of their catalogue numbers, Priestley's Jet opened the proceedings. She did not do well, losing points on every phase of the work, especially in gathering, driving, and shedding, the English judge faulting her more severely than the Scottish and Welsh judges, who were substantially agreed on her work. Time, 28 minutes.

"The Moffat young man followed, and justified his inclusion in the ten by his work, which, though not very satisfactory off hand, was distinctly high class at hand. About it, as a whole, all three judges were substantially agreed in ranking it higher than Jet's performance. Time, 32 minutes.

"Thorpe's Fly followed, and did better than either Jet or Hemp. For once the English and Welsh judges were agreed, in opposition to their Scottish colleague, who more heavily faulted Fly in gathering, driving, and shedding. Time, 31 minutes.

"Walter Telfer's Queen next appeared, and put up a capital performance, regarding which all three judges were agreed to within half a point. Altogether, as only 8 points out of an aggregate of 165 were lost, and as the time taken was only 22 minutes, it seemed to many that Queen's performance was unbeatable. But the unexpected was to happen.

"Thorpe's Hemp followed with a run on the aggregate practically similar to his kennel companion, Fly, and regarding which all three judges were pretty well agreed. Time, 35 minutes.

"Next came the old warrior Dickson's Hemp, whose work the previous day raised hopes in his many admirers, which he did not disappoint. For, on the judges' points, he improved, though



Mrs. William Millar, Mt. Pleasant, Utah. The dog shown in the picture is from the kennels of Mr. Millar's brother referred to in this article.

very slightly, on Queen's fine work, losing seven to her eight, but spending 26 minutes on the job. Had he shed as well as he gathered, drove and penned, the Shield was at Greenfield now; but then he didn't, and so Tom has at least another year to wait before his dearest wish—he declares he is heart free—is gratified. But he will go a long time before he gets another Hemp, and he might now very well retire the old dog on his laurels as the aggregate champion of the year.

"Mark Hayton, with Wylie, though highly faulted by the English judge, was never dangerous. Time, 29 minutes.

"Fingland, who followed, was expected to do great things with Loos, a Cup winner the previous day, and on her

first outrun it seemed as if she would fulfill all expectations; but, alas! her first lot got so placed on a bunker that Loos failed to lift them, and did not get away with them until the pen men helped her. For this the Scottish judge faulted her more severely than the other two, as he also did in driving. Then the shed was a "dreich," and ragged affair, so much so that after working for 36 minutes without getting to the pen, Wallace was glad to hear the whistle. So the Shield is not yet at the Fingland; but Loos is young, and Wallace can "stay" with the best.

"Bagshaw's Lad, the English Cup-winner, on the whole put up a very good performance, but the shed was bad, costing him no fewer than 9 out of a total of 15½ points lost. Time, 27 minutes.

"In heavy rain and poor visibility, the last run of all was destined to be the first of the day, as has happened frequently at international trials. The Scottish giant was seen to throw off his coat and step out to face the elements, now at their worst; and the few but enthusiastic Scots present eagerly noticed the firm tread and determined look of their champion. With Alick in the mood and Spot well rested from his long road journey from Scotland, they felt anything might happen, though it would need very fine work all through to oust Greenfield Hemp and Fairnley Queen. Yet by a masterly piece of work in all its phases, the like of which will never be seen again on the Criccieth course, under the same adverse conditions, if ever, Spot beat them both by one point in 27 minutes, and thus earned for the Scottish champion the victory which he has sought for twenty years. Nobody grudges him his great and well-deserved triumph."

MONTANA PLACES QUARANTINE

The Montana live stock sanitary board, through W. J. Butler, state veterinarian, has established a quarantine against entry of Wyoming sheep into Montana. The quarantine is designed to protect Montana sheep against scabies.

Can the Lamb Market Be Made More Stable? III

The Native Supply---Daily Receipts and Prices in 1925

Native Lambs

Before proceeding with the study of charts provided for comparison in this issue, it might be well to consider our most uncertain competitor, the "native" lamb. The word "uncertain" is used advisedly. Go to any stockyard in the country and ask your commission man what he expects the run of natives to be at any time and anywhere, and he will give you a good imitation of a newly arrived Basque lad whose sole knowledge of the English language is the one word "California," and at whom you are shooting questions in forceful American. The best he can say is "me no sabe," and that about expresses the knowledge of commission men individually and collectively regarding the "natives."

Just what "natives" mean to the western shipper may be taken from the following table, which gives the total arrivals at Chicago of all sheep, native and western, during the four months July to October, inclusive:

	Lambs	NATIVES.				Totals
		Ewes	Yearlings	Others		
1925	458,300	39,000	12,100	6,300		515,800
1924	444,100	37,000	12,400	12,100		505,500
1923	329,800	36,600	8,100	14,000		388,600

	Lambs	WESTERNS.				Totals
		Ewes	Yearlings	Others		
1925	633,000	29,200	16,800	10,500		689,400
1924	895,900	41,400	7,100	10,600		955,100
1923	880,200	38,700	14,800	19,900		953,700

It will be noted that the percentage of "natives" to the total arrivals has increased from 29 per cent in 1923 to 36 per cent in 1924, and 43 per cent in 1925. And what is the native lamb? It is better than the best we raise on the ranges—sometimes. It is worse than anything we take to market—many times. You can exhaust your superlatives on some of the nicely trimmed bunches of Kentucky lambs, and some of the commission men and packer buyers go clear beyond the English language to straight "cussin'," and that is all that has ever been used on many a bunch of "natives" from here, there and anywhere. The man that raised

them figures them as sheep and that was as much as he knew of them; regarding their breeding he knew nothing and cared less.

The native lamb is improving, however; the "bucky" lamb is disappearing, slowly, it is true, from some sections, but he is going. That he has not disappeared long ago is directly attributed to the system of marketing. A great percentage of the native lambs is sold to speculators, the breeder seldom if ever seeing his stuff sold on the market. The rougher lambs do not command the prices the well trimmed lambs do, but the profit per head may be just as much on a \$6 or \$7 lamb as on a \$10 or \$11 one, as a consequence why should the speculator change. Anything that is being done to improve the quality of the native lamb should have the hearty endorsement of all western growers. A good article meets a sale always; it is when the market has to absorb a lot of inferior stuff that prices sag.

A study of the charts showing daily receipts for August, September and October gives one an impression of the outline of the Sierra or Sawtooth mountains, lots of high peaks. But when the price chart is studied, but one gulch is noted. The mere fact that one of the highest peaks is immediately beside the gulch on one side and a high table land on the other focuses our attention on the depression. The peak is not unduly high when compared with the general topography of the country, and the table land is a continuation of the general outline, but that gulch is something different.

In the October Wool Grower Poole

finds the explanation of the depression in the fact that "Bob" Matheson went away. If that is the only reason, the least that can be said is that "Bob" had better choose another holiday season or leave some one in charge who won't bear the market without some sort of an excuse. In this case there wasn't any. There is this consolation for the lamb raiser, price breaks were few and far between. Feeder buyers and others who had hoped for lower prices take this: "How is the world treatin' ye, Sandy?" "Verra seldom."

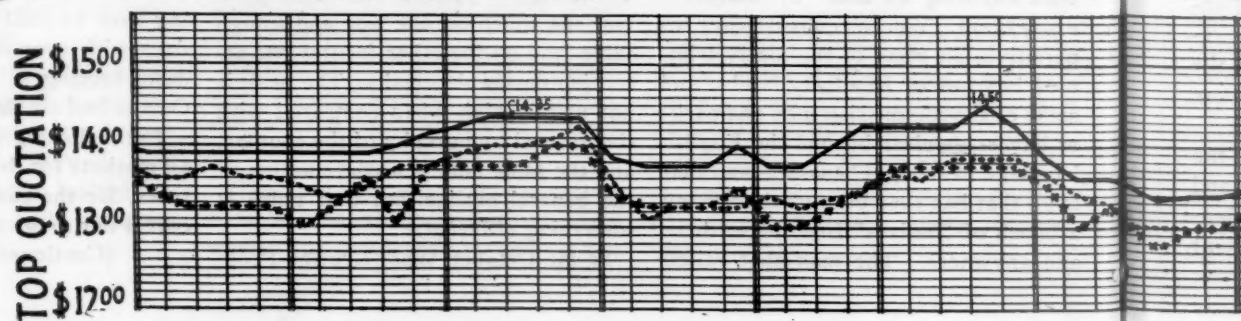
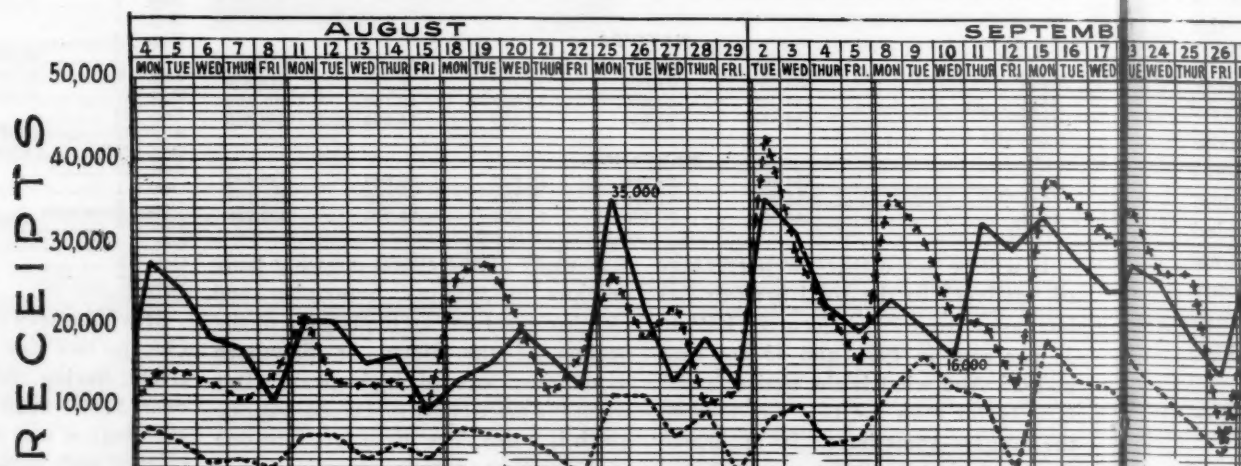
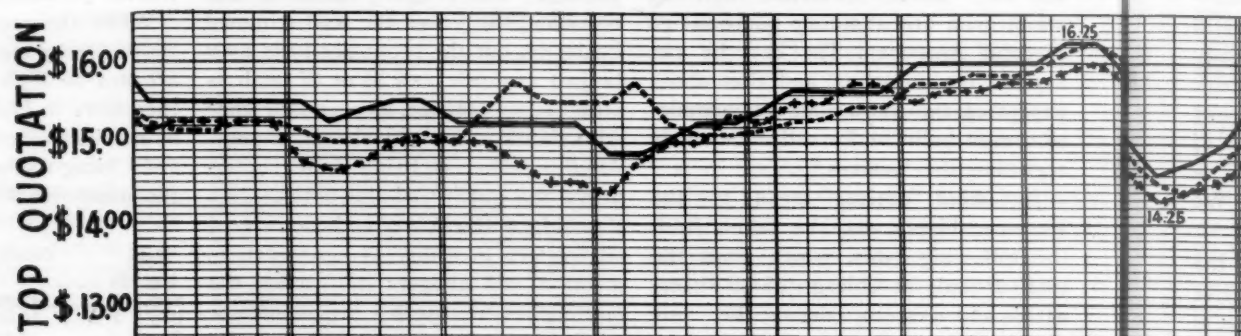
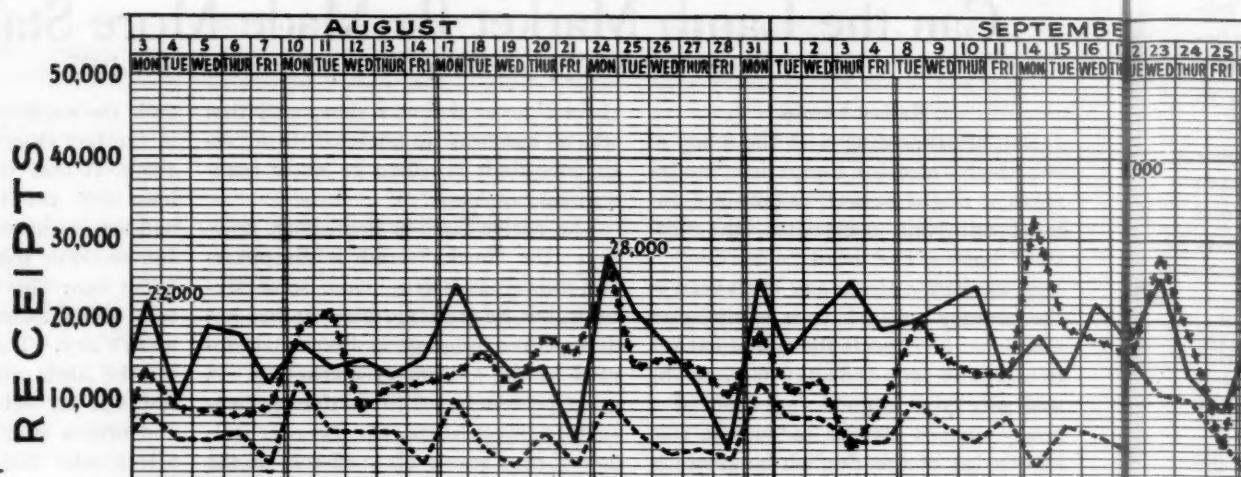
While the receipt chart for 1925 shows a very ragged outline, the peaks are not so high nor so numerous as they were in 1924. The following table of receipts of over 30,000 for Omaha and Chicago shows a good reason for the steady market enjoyed:

Date	1924		1925	
	Omaha	Chicago	Omaha	Chicago
Aug. 25		35,000		
Sep. 2	43,000	35,000		
Sep. 3	30,000	32,000		
Sep. 8	37,000			
Sep. 9	31,000			
Sep. 11		32,000		
Sep. 14			33,000	
Sep. 15	38,000	33,000		
Sep. 16	30,000			
Sep. 17	30,000		38,000	
Sep. 21			38,000	
Sep. 22	32,000			
Sep. 23	34,000			
Sep. 29		30,000		
Oct. 1		30,000		
Oct. 5				34,000
Oct. 6		32,000		
Oct. 12				32,000
Oct. 13		41,000		
Oct. 27		38,000		

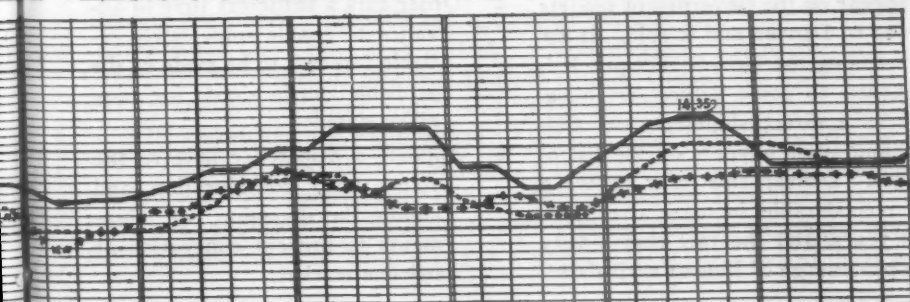
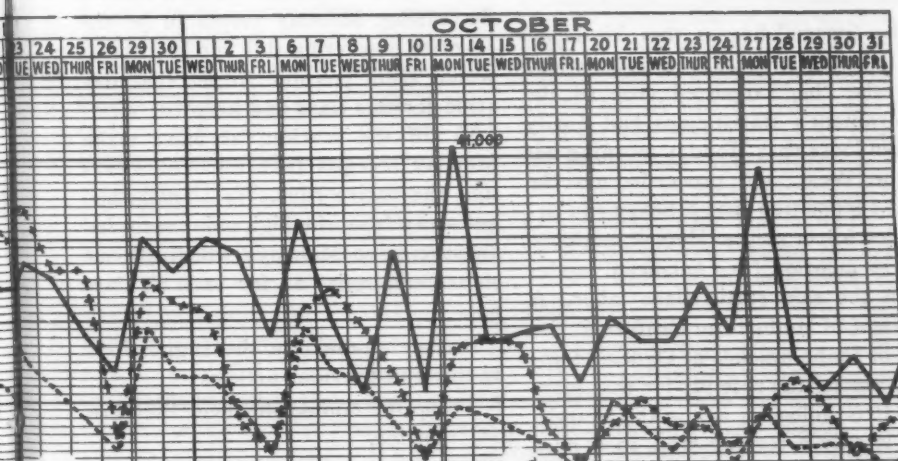
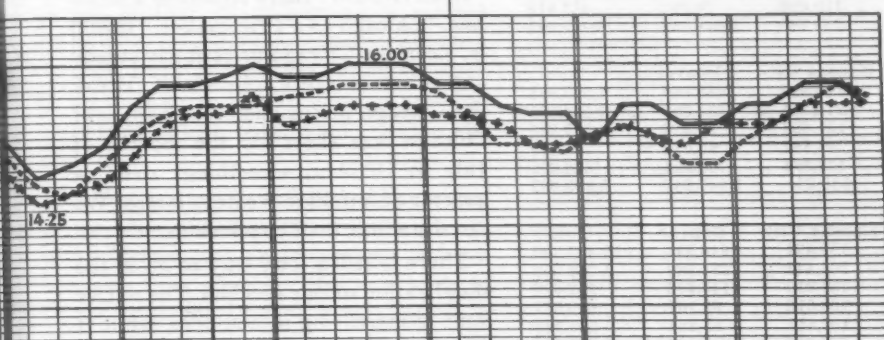
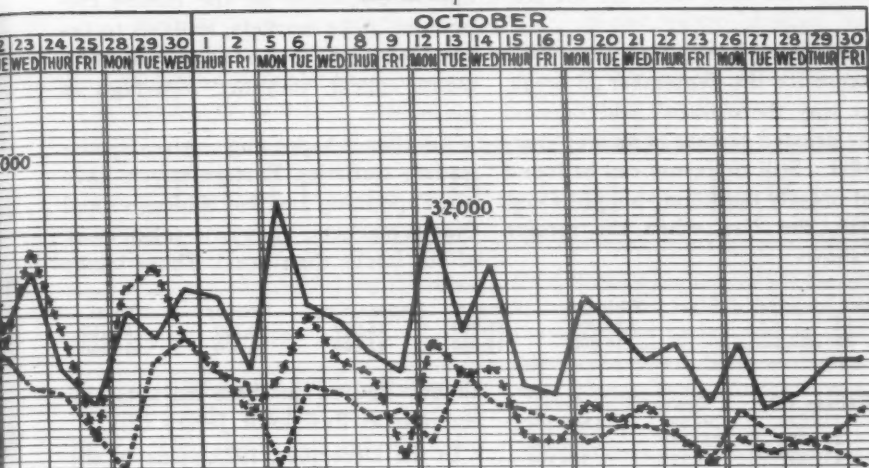
It will be seen that while Omaha and Chicago had nine and ten days, respectively, during the 1924 season with over 30,000 head on the market, the 1925 season saw but two days on each market with that number on sale. Going back to 1923, Chicago had twelve days with over 30,000 receipts, two dates turning in 44,000 and 48,000. Omaha had six dates with over 30,000.

The following gives the receipts at all markets for the months June to October, for the past three years, which covers our range shipping season:

(Continued on Page 28)



LEGEND: Chicago ———
 Omaha ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
 Kansas City - - - - -



THE 1925 RANGE LAMB MARKET

Continuing its custom of recent years the Wool Grower prints this graphic presentation of the daily course of prices and receipts as reported from three markets for the months of August, September and October, the period in which shipments are chiefly made from the range country. The chart record printed for 1924 is also presented to permit a direct comparison of the daily fluctuation in prices during the range marketing period of the last two years.

Examining first the price lines as shown in the lower sections of the charts for 1925 and 1924 it is readily seen that the line for 1925 is more nearly straight. Prices varied in the same direction at the same time at each of the markets, but the changes were less numerous and less pronounced than in 1925. While the 1925 price line shows a steadier condition on the whole there is an exception in the sharp drop following September 15, when in one week the prices went from the season's high to the low point of the season, a spread of \$1.65 per hundred. The later half of this drop took place upon the days of receipts not usually considered to be heavy, but as shown in the upper half of the 1925 chart. On Monday, September 21, Omaha had 38,000 lambs and Chicago but 28,000. On the following Monday receipts were low at both markets and prices continued upward.

On Monday, October 5, Chicago again had 34,000 and prices dropped slightly, although only 12,000 head arrived at Omaha.

The 1924 chart shows a number of days upon which the receipts at Chicago and Omaha were in excess of the heaviest days of last year. The figures for these days are set out separately in Mr. Sproat's discussion of the season's market on the next page.

CAN THE LAMB MARKET BE MADE MORE STABLE?

(Continued from Page 25.)

Month	1925	1924	1923
October	3,198,193	3,294,944	3,464,791
September	2,627,449	3,027,361	2,658,818
August	2,064,185	2,005,467	1,799,860
July	1,698,555	1,671,593	1,660,814
June	1,603,252	1,549,997	1,425,889
Totals	11,191,634	11,549,362	11,009,372

Market receipts for the same months at the four principal range markets, for the years 1923, 1924 and 1925, are as follows:

1923.					
Month	Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Denver	Total
October	538,730	424,420	215,343	707,032	1,885,525
September	478,330	422,362	219,021	220,949	1,340,662
August	364,622	263,512	117,857	48,117	794,108
July	289,361	214,503	127,573	52,359	683,796
June	200,355	118,188	119,096	20,297	457,916
Totals	1,871,378	1,442,985	798,890	1,048,754	5,162,007
1924.					
Month.	Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Denver	Total
October	472,973	254,016	170,380	668,569	1,565,938
September	528,332	552,873	276,154	237,306	1,594,665
August	360,910	339,459	131,628	60,386	892,383
July	331,946	226,703	104,897	40,032	703,577
June	286,146	177,328	132,281	40,954	636,699
Total	1,980,307	1,550,378	815,330	1,047,247	5,393,262
1925.					
Month.	Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Denver	Total
October	409,848	200,853	150,492	646,597	1,407,790
September	419,230	383,329	204,411	281,589	1,288,559
August	372,849	287,235	137,010	145,602	942,696
July	292,413	188,495	126,516	88,107	695,531
June	266,617	149,514	107,857	65,201	589,189
Totals	1,760,957	1,209,426	726,286	1,227,096	4,923,765

While we are congratulating ourselves on the comparative freedom from breaks on the 1925 markets, we need not credit this altogether to our orderly marketing. The shortage for the season on our principal range markets, of approximately half a million head below the 1924 season, had a lot to do with it. The further fact that the entire shortage was for the two months of September and October, when the feeder lamb is selling, is the principal reason for our successful operations.

We can pin on a bouquet or two, however, when we consider that the receipts for June, July and August showed but five days with 20,000 or over on the Chicago market, and with one solitary day showing that number in Omaha. With the exception of one or two days, a spread of 50 cents covered almost the entire price range, and had it not been for the "No Matheson Canyon" in September, that same

amount would have stood for the season.

It has been stated that there was no excuse for the September 23 break. In one way there wasn't; the demand for the dressed carcass in no way warranted it. Still an excuse can be found in that orderly marketing slipped a cog Monday, the 21st, when the receipt chart shows:

Month.	Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Denver	Total
Sept. 21	28,000	35,000	15,000	36,750	117,750
Sept. 22	18,000	16,000	11,000	9,500	54,500

appear elsewhere on the receipt column, at other markets, leads us to believe that light as the range lamb shipments appear, they are too high as given.

Another happening gives misleading statistics. Eastern buyers have been operating on the Chicago and Omaha markets. They have taken more of our lambs than usual. Those lambs

already figured on these markets and reappear at Buffalo or Jersey City.

In the December, 1923, issue of the "Wool Grower" there appeared a headline, "Chicago as a Pricemaker." It still is. Keep the Chicago price fairly steady and other markets follow suit. Break the Chicago prices and what happens? Chicago was short for the months of July to October, something over a quarter of a million western lambs. We can draw our own conclusions.

There is still a long way to go in the stabilization of our receipts. The native lamb is increasing in numbers, while it would appear that the western lamb is decreasing. Monday seems to be the favorite marketing day for natives. It would seem possible to set that day aside for this class and keep the westerns off the market, at least make Monday receipts take into consideration the native runs. We should then get away from the high point recorded on successive Mondays which all our charts emphasize as far back as they go.

Let me summarize the suggestions of this and previous articles:

1. Ship the lambs whenever they are prime.
2. Order cars a sufficient time in advance to enable some fairly reliable forecast to be made of the probable run in sight for any given date.
3. Appoint a dispatcher to give the above every consideration, and handle the diversion of shipments to prevent congestion at any one market.

4. Secure cooperation among commission houses in ordering in of the following day's supplies.
5. As far as possible keep western lambs off Monday's market.
6. If the aforementioned suggestions do not secure desired results, make an effort to remove the feeder supply from the slaughtering markets.

Letter From a Shepherd to His Pal

On the Spanish Front,
Morocco-Africa,
January 1926

Dear Ern:

Your letter where you inquired about my girl finally reached me. She's all right. They took her out of prison and landed her in a school where they put in four years learning a maiden how to eat, drink, and sleep; and then they train her for six months longer on how to walk into a room and flop herself onto a sofa. That's where she is now.

But I want to tell you about a guy we took prisoner, me and the Count. We'd been out on scout duty and got along fine, when on the way back to the lines the Count's camel gave a grunt and went down all in a bunch. A quarter of a mile away a speck of white showed for a instant. I pulled up my reins and carbine instant and blazed away. It was a lucky shot, creased my man above the ear and knocked him cuckoo.

We tied him and fetched him into camp, and Ern, it turned out he was the legitimate son of a big Sheik. His name starts with Hassan, and then strings you along like a wild duck hiding her nest, til you forget which way you was headed. Three years of his life Hassan spent in Paris, and as many in London. He handles French, English and Spanish. And he's a ladies' man. Six feet he stands, and well set up. Dark skinned, like a olive with a black Garden of Allah sort of a beard. The war correspondents went nuts over him; they sketched and photographed him in eight various positions and prepared him for the Sunday papers.

He was sociable enough, considering that he had a headache from that bul-

let, but took it as a joke. Sorry he'd put the Count afoot that way, and said his dad would send a Arabian camel—they are the fastest riding camels in Africa. Keep 'em filled with water and they beat a Ford—for the one he'd punctured.

They knowed a lot of the same people, Hassan and the Count. They'd inhaled cocktails mixed by the identical bartender—and, besides, they belong to the same lodge. The Colonel is tickled pink. He had me and the Count up to the big tent; we'll be mentioned in the dispatches, and we're slated for a decoration. Before night they missed Hassan at home and a envoy came with a white flag and offered us a hundred Spaniards and fifty Frenchmen for him; but the Colonel said no, he wanted to keep him for a while.

It turned out that he had worked out a purty keen skeem. His plan was to put Hassan in a plane, let his people know that he was on board, and then fly over the enemy country, close to the ground and take pictures. It made the Count sore, he said it wasn't right, and he came purty near being throwed in the can for some of the remarks he made. But the Colonel stuck to his plan.

We had a big feed that night and went to our tents feeling so brotherly we felt sorry there was a war, and almost scratched each other's backs. But in the morning, when they came after Hassan, why, they found his six guards slugged, tied plenty, and piled in a heap. Outside the lines, three sentries lay dead—stabbed. It made the Colonel wish he'd traded. There was a note addressed to him, and it had only two words: Fata Morgana.

I guess I'll have to explain that to you. In this country lots of times when

the sun registers about a hundred and thirty, and you're so near choked your tongue begins to shrivel, you get a queer experience. You look off down the country and you see the purtiest lake you could imagine. Cold blue waves gently lapping at green mossy banks, and shady palms strung out in groves along the shore. Out on the lake you see waterfowl placidly bobbing up and down, and maybe a sailboat spread its snow-white sail before the breeze. And then you lean over and kick you camel in the ribs and make for there. You ride and ride, and your anticipation gets so keen your eyes bulge out; but it's a lot farther than it looked, and suddenly, when you're about all in and you begin to wish you'd a let your camel had his head, the picture shivers in the sun and dissolves. The only water is the hot sweat on your brow, and the only fowl is a lone buzzard floating overhead, estimating your endurance.

They call this thing Fata Morgana, after a little fairy by that name. She weaves those pictures in the air and draws travelers on to their arid death. Fata Morgana! a purty name, but as deceitful as the little fairy herself. It has a deep meaning, Ern. Can you remember it? try: Fata Morgana! It means you've been traveling a blind trail; it means a busted flush; it means sundown, with no camp in sight, and the night-clouds gathering in the West. That was the message Hassan left for the Colonel—it made him look solemn, for he konws what Hassan meant by that. He meant to tell him that all this work, all this money, and all the lives he is offering up here will come to nothing; and that in the end his ambition of conquest and of empire building will amount to no more than a shattered dream, a vaporous wind-blown phantom of the desert.

There goes the Alerte! A machine gun busting loose up on the ridge; we've got to silence it. The bugles are calling To Arms! Take good care of Old Spot and write soon again to

Your friend and Pal

Richard A. Wormwood.



The Winning Rambouillet Flock at the 1925 International Exposition. Exhibited by Bullard Bros., Woodland, Calif.



Grand Champion Wether over All Breeds and Crosses at the International Exposition. This lamb was a pure-bred Southdown, raised and exhibited by the University of California and sold at \$4.15 per pound, weight 110 pounds, age ten months. Shepherd, George Phillips holding the lamb. A. B. Fritsche, buyer, and Professor R. F. Miller.

Winning Rambouillet ram in the yearling class at the Sanpete Fair, Utah, in 1925. Bred and exhibited by W. D. Candland & Sons, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.



Champion Rambouillet Ewe at the International Exposition. Bred and exhibited by Bullard Bros., Woodland, Calif.



Agriculture and the Public Domain

The following is from the last annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture:

"The existing policy with respect to land utilization on the public domain has had much to do with the troubles of western agriculture in the past few years. Permitting the public domain to be sporadically occupied by homesteaders in holdings of uniform size with little reference to the capacity of such a holding to maintain a family except as determined by the inexperienced settler, has added greatly to the unnecessary loss and misery attending the process of agricultural expansion, has contributed to the undue development of cereal production from which our established farmers have suffered, and has greatly complicated the problems of the range industry.

"Furthermore, allowing the unappropriated and unreserved lands of the public domain to be used as a grazing common has greatly increased the instability of the live-stock industry of the West. That portion of this great industry dependent upon the public domain, involving an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars, is engaged in a competitive struggle to obtain the limited grass on the public lands on the principle of 'first come, first served.' It is true that some of the stockmen have been so fortunate as to secure practically exclusive control of the use of certain areas of the public domain through the ownership of strategic locations for water supply, or through other favorable conditions, but the great majority have no such immunity from cut-throat competition.

"Under such conditions there is a premium on destructive and wasteful use. Each man tries to get his stock on the young and tender grass ahead of his competitor and close graze it till the last sprig is gone. It is impossible to maintain a reserve supply of forage against a dry season. It is equally impracticable to co-ordinate properly the seasonal use of the range on the na-

tional forests or other lands with that on the unreserved public domain.

"As a result of these conditions the public range lands are steadily deteriorating in public usefulness. While potentially a valuable public resource, the forage is being destroyed by improper use. Moreover, the denudation of the land has greatly increased erosion and has intensified the destructiveness of floods. Experiments, investigations, and practical demonstrations have shown that denuded range lands can be restored under a system of regulated grazing which will arrange for the right number and class of stock at the proper season of the year, provide for the even utilization of the range and permit the most valuable species of forage to mature seed. However, it is impossible to employ such methods of utilization on the 180,000,000 acres of unallotted and unreserved public domain under our existing land policy.

"For a number of years interested persons and agencies have agreed that a far-reaching change of policy is imperative. Indeed, each year for the past two decades some form of legislation relating to this problem has been introduced in Congress, but because of the diversity of opinion owing to the varied conditions in different parts of the West, no far-reaching legislation has been passed. At the present time a congressional committee is giving the problem careful study, and it is for Congress to determine the exact form of policy which shall be developed. Indeed, the exact form of policy or the decision as to what agency shall be charged with its administration is comparatively unimportant, provided that the problem shall be settled in such a manner as to promote an adequate utilization of the public domain and a stabilization of the range industry. In order to accomplish these purposes it will be necessary to recognize certain basic facts and principles:

"1. It is uneconomic to permit homesteaders to take up land at random on

the public domain. Such a policy works havoc in the established grazing industry, and at the same time encourages settlers to undertake a farming enterprise impossible of success. Much of the homesteading has been merely for the purpose of selling out to ranchmen, forcing the latter to increase their capitalization unduly, sometimes in the face of falling prices for live stock or credit stringency. Careful selection should be made of such portions of the public domain as afford a reasonable promise of successful farming, not in scattered holdings where the possibilities of developing a satisfactory community life are remote. The remainder of the public domain should be definitely devoted to the range industry until such time as changing physical or economic conditions justify a different form of use.

"2. In many localities the public domain is only one segment of year-round provision for feed for live stock. It must be adequately coordinated with the use of the summer pasturage of the national forests, as well as with the provision of winter feed on lands capable of raising crops. As my predecessor expressed it in his annual report for 1923: 'Unregulated spring range has become the neck of the bottle. Winter feed and summer pasturage are available for more stock than can be subsisted during the interval unless the spring range on the open domain can be protected from over-grazing and utilized in a coordinated way with the other and stable factors in the round of the year.' The economic stabilization of the live-stock industry should be promoted by providing adequate reserves of pasturage against recurring years of drought by a reasonable degree of elasticity in grazing fees or in rentals, and by the utmost practicable stability of tenure consistent with the public interests involved.

"3. The privilege of grazing based upon prior use and occupancy and the ownership of improvements on adjacent

ent property employed in connection with the public range should be fully recognized and carefully conserved. Attention should also be devoted to providing sufficient pasturage for the requirements of homesteaders and other farmers in the vicinity of the range. Suitable provision should be made for necessary ingress and egress, and for the movement of live stock, also for prospecting, locating, developing, and patenting mineral resources.

"4. So far as practicable, the principle of local option should be observed in extending regulation over the public domain, and the policy of local self-regulation should be employed in developing a uniform program consistent with the larger public interests involved."

Extracts From the Last Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior

"The Department of the Interior is primarily the land branch of the Federal government. The majority of the bureaus and services under its jurisdiction perform functions connected with the disposal, development, conservation and administration of the public domain. Other bureaus supervise education, eleemosynary, legal, and financial responsibilities of the government.

"The government, since its formation, has maintained a generous policy in disposing of public lands to its citizens. Liberal homestead laws were enacted by Congress after the nation came into possession of the vast areas comprising the present western states. They have remained on the statute books ever since.

"The pioneer movement commencing over half a century ago resulted in the settlement of the West. The fertile lands have now passed into private ownership. The public land remaining after years of intensive homesteading may be regarded as valueless for agriculture.

"This diminishing area of the public domain caused a gradual reduction in the work of the General Land Office. This bureau was found to be operating with practically the same force it had maintained during the periods of

greater activity. A reorganization of the working force became necessary. A consolidation of divisions in Washington, the retirement of surplus employees, and the discarding of useless furniture during the past fiscal year, resulted in a closer-knit organization and expedited the service.

"A reduction in the number of land entries naturally followed the shrinkage of the public domain. Receipts from sales of public lands decreased 85 per cent during the past twenty years. This suggested the closing of forty-two of the eighty-four land offices, which was done at the close of the last fiscal year, the work being transferred to other offices. The positions of receiver for local land offices were also discontinued. * * *

"A change in the Federal policy which will secure the permanent preservation of pasturage on the remaining public domain is imperative for the protection of the range and of stockmen.

"The national forests, which now embrace 184,125,912 acres, are under the control of the Department of Agriculture, and offer grazing privileges under lease to permittees. The unreserved public lands, comprising 184,726,846 additional acres, are under the Department of the Interior, and are now being utilized for grazing under sufferance, without charge or control, by the Federal government.

"This gratuitous use of the public domain as an unrestricted range for live stock has resulted in overgrazing. Wide areas have been almost denuded of native grasses.

"Close grazing precludes reseeding by natural processes to reproduce this important natural resource. There is no limit under the law to the number of animals that may be grazed on the prairies regardless of the growth of grass available. Forage for domestic live stock is being consumed by countless wild horses—unbranded, many unowned and of little value. The Interior Department is without authority to eliminate this pest. The watering places are inclosed by local owners,

which enables them to control large grazing regions on the public lands. Insecurity of tenure to the lands and inability of stock growers to prevent migratory herds from damaging the public domain are continual sources of trouble. Altogether, the present lack of a grazing policy is a disturbing factor in the live-stock business of the West.

"Enactment of legislation authorizing the establishment by presidential proclamation of grazing districts and the issuance of permits therefor to bona fide residents of the locality, or to those engaged in the live-stock industry in the areas affected, is urgently needed. These districts could then be protected and administered by the Federal government.

"Such a policy would conserve the forage on public lands, and ultimately increase their value. Stockmen having permits for fixed areas of the public domain could take precaution to allow reseeding and self-interest would prevent overgrazing. With a legal tenure of the land for a term of years permittees would be encouraged to invest capital in wells and protect and develop water holes.

"Fees to cover the actual cost of administration of these privileges should be exacted. The surplus, if any from this source, should be divided between the Federal Treasury and the state in which the lands are located. This system would not interfere with the continued utilization of mineral resources on public lands and would still permit homestead entry on the few suitable remaining tracts.

"A bill to accomplish this object was before Congress last year, but failed of passage. It is recommended that this legislation be enacted at the coming session of Congress to protect the grazing privileges of stockmen, to stabilize the live-stock business of the western states, and to preserve the remaining public domain from ultimate destruction.

"The history of the disposal of the public land has been a progressive liberalizing of the homestead laws to meet the diminution of fertile areas.

"Originally, the size of the homestead was fixed at 160 acres. After the greater part of the desirable public domain had been acquired by citizens and converted into farms of this size the demand for homesteads decreased. There was no incentive for citizens to homestead the remaining public lands, as available 160-acre tracts would not sustain a family. The size of the homestead consequently was increased by law to 320 acres. Applications for homestead entries after a time again declined for the same reason.

"In 1916 Congress enacted the stock-raising act, which permits the acquisition of public land in 640-acre tracts. It was thought that these tracts were of sufficient size for the raising of sheep and cattle. Stock raising on a

tract limited to 640 acres is not practicable, and homesteads for stock raising are rapidly reverting to the open range.

"The government has been criticised because it invites the citizens to enter public lands of this character, invest their small savings in an effort to develop them, only to find that they have wasted their time and capital in a fruitless struggle against insurmountable conditions. The attention of Congress is called to this phase of the public land situation in the hope that consideration will be given to the repeal of the homestead stock raising act. The remaining grazing lands can be otherwise administered with greater advantage to the government and the stockman."

Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills.

Melbourne, November 16, 1925.

A meeting of the Australian Woolgrowers' Council, a body fairly representative of sheepmen throughout the Commonwealth, was held in Melbourne on October 29th. A number of questions of vital interest to growers received consideration, the most important being suggestions for the future marketing of the clip. After a lengthy discussion the following resolutions were carried:

1. That there should be a continuance of the present periodical conferences between the Australian Woolgrowers' Council and the National Council of Woollselling Brokers.

2. That an inner advisory committee, jointly representative of both bodies, should be formed to collect and co-ordinate statistical information, and generally to advise the joint conferences of the two bodies on any matter which may assist them in deciding allocations, etc.

3. That the cost of obtaining such information should be borne equally by the two bodies, with the possibility of ultimately making it a charge in all growers' account sales.

4. That the above resolutions be submitted to the National Council of Woollselling Brokers, and that it be asked to appoint forthwith a sub-committee to meet a sub-committee of the Woolgrowers' Council, with a view to adopting some practical method of future working the two bodies.

The proposal has been sympathetically received by the brokers' council

and there is every probability of the joint committee being formed in the near future. This would doubtlessly work in conjunction with the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, which is taking up the matter of collecting world wide wool statistics on the initiative of the United States government. A long memorandum bearing on the subject has just been received from the Institute by the Federal government, and referred by it to the various state graziers' associations.

Another matter considered at the growers' meeting was the use of deleterious fluids in branding sheep, emanating from a complaint from manufacturers. It was arranged to have a number of fleeces branded with various materials and dispatched to Bradford for analysis and experiment, with a view to finding out which do not properly scour out. Action in respect to a recommendation that steps be taken to obtain legislation to compel manufacturers of sheep branding fluids to guarantee the materials free from all matters have a deleterious effect on wool was deferred until the report was received from Bradford.

The view was expressed that the present rates of insurance on wool are excessive, and it was resolved to request the selling brokers to use their influence with the insurance underwriters to have same reduced. This the brokers have promised to do. It may be added that definite action will probably be expedited by an arrangement recently made by the Graziers' Association of New South Wales with certain insurance companies to issue a comprehensive policy covering wool from time of shearing until sold ex store.

The rates for these covers will be ordinary tariff for wool from sheep's back to store at present being charged, which is three per cent. Rainwater damage, if desired, is an extra one per cent, less 15 per cent discount. Fire cover in store is at ordinary tariff rates. The policies will cover up to the full value of the wool, subject to a limit to be stated in the policy as to the maximum value of any one bale. When applying for cover growers have to stipulate for cover on a reasonable market value only.

The policy does not meet with the approval of brokers or underwriters generally. The last clause in particular has been subject to criticism. It is described as inelastic and dangerous to the grower as he might not be always protected up to the full market value, the cover being limited to the maximum per bale fixed at the commencement of the risk as against the present method which takes into consideration daily fluctuating values. Under existing arrangements brokers insure the wool of clients while in store against fire at a charge of 3.2 per cent of the actual selling value for the first eight weeks, with a charge of 6 cents per week for subsequent weeks.

Highly satisfactory clearances have been the rule at wool auctions held in all centers during the past month. Prices generally have shown a steady advance, and while opinions may differ as to what it actually represents over the four weeks, it is safe to say the appreciation at least equals 7.5 per cent on rates ruling in mid-October. The

finer counts are probably 10 to 12.5 per cent dearer. France is still securing the greatest weight of staple, but America and England are both buying more freely.

The competition from these two countries has lately forced values for super wools to a high level, up to 71.5 cents being given for Victorian western district, 66 cents for Sydney, and 63 cents for Brisbane clips, which at this stage of the season speaks for itself. These are high figures and close observers profess they would not be altogether surprised if some slight reaction were to occur. A rising market cannot be expected to continue indefinitely, and without holding that prices have reached a dangerous level, they are high enough to make the question of finance a factor in the position. It is not expected that a slump such as occurred last season will happen, but a variation of 5 per cent or so would not hurt anyone, and might be worth while if it steadied the market and made for stability.

The absence of adequate spring and early summer rains is causing stock owners more than a little anxiety. The falls have been below the average in most districts for some three or four months now, and unless a definite break occurs soon the outlook will be bad. More or less droughty conditions already prevail over a good deal of north and northwest New South Wales, the far west of Queensland, and the north of South Australia. Broadly speaking the country elsewhere is carrying a fair amount of feed and water, but almost everywhere a good soaking downpour would be heartily welcomed.

The dry spell is having a somewhat depressing effect on the live stock markets. Thanks, however, to the operations of the export trade there has been nothing approaching a slump, and rates generally are maintaining quite a reasonable level, considering all the circumstances. Last week average shorn fat wethers were bringing \$6 to \$7.20, and spring lambs from \$5.50 to \$6.50 per head in the Sydney and Melbourne yards. Stores and poor stuff are

of course weak, but there is no panic selling.

The past month has witnessed considerable activity in the frozen lamb export trade. All the southern packing plants have been killing with full boards and the quality generally has been excellent. Dry feed at the right time, provided it is not too dry, suits lambs better than excessively wet pasturage, so even an unfavorable season has its compensations. With the heavier yardings, costs on the hoof have dropped back somewhat. For a time at the end of October shippers were buying in the market on the basis of 12 to 13 cents per pound, bare meat, but recently they have been paying from 14 to 14½ cents. The peak of the season is over, it being expected killings will ease off after next week.

Reports from New Zealand agree that though the weather there has improved the season is a late one, owing to the wet winter and early spring. It is expected the fat lamb season will open rather later than usual in the North Island. There has been some mortality among lambs in the South Island, much greater than for years past, but with more breeding ewes put to the ram, the total should not be much below last year's crop.

OREGON FEEDING EXPERIMENTS

For two years back the Oregon Experiment Station has fattened lambs for the March and April market, partly, as they state, to take advantage of the better prices which normally prevail during the late winter months, and partly to market a large quantity of alfalfa. Determination to conduct research on this phase of feeding resulted from study of the Portland markets, which indicated that the average increase from October to April is 52 cents per hundred pounds per month. This figure, of course, is an average, and includes every year since Portland stock yards were established. Some years the market does not go up at all during the winter, while at other times

the increase may be more than a dollar a month.

According to H. K. Den and E. L. Potter, who have conducted the experiments, the situation naturally raises several questions. First, could feeder lambs be fed for a longer period than the usual seventy-five days, using the same amount of grain but more hay, and figuring that the increased price obtained from a later market would afford a reasonable return for the additional hay used? Second, how much more hay would be necessary? Third, would a lamb gain on either hay or grain alone? And fourth, would it be better to feed a little grain every day for a longer time, or to feed hay alone for a while and then give a heavier ration of grain for finishing?

Experiments were organized at the Umatilla Experiment Station at Hermiston in an effort to throw some light on these questions. The results for the two years were practically the same. Comparing the long feed with a short-feed period the experimenters found the profits on the long feed less in the good years and more in the bad years, but averaging about the same. As a practical proposition for the alfalfa grower they conclude that the long feed is much safer on account of the lower investment and smaller risk. On the long feed the number of lambs and the amount of grain needed to market a ton of hay is cut in half. This reduces both the investment and the risk and puts the business within reach of more alfalfa growers they believe.

Other conclusions of the experimenters were, that the gain on hay alone was too small, as practically no fat was produced, and the lambs seemed to be marking time. A good gain was made when grain was included in the ration. In answer to the final question, the experimenters concluded that one pound of grain per head per day is better than either a larger or a smaller amount, and they recommend that grain be fed at this rate beginning approximately seventy-five days before

(Continued on page 41)

WASHINGTON WOOL GROWERS APPEAL FROM RULING OF FOREST SERVICE

Holders of sheep grazing permits on the Wenaha division of the Umatilla Forest have announced their intention to appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture for a reversal of the decision of the Forest Service under which the one night bedding rule for sheep would be made compulsory.

The last revision of the grazing manual makes the following statement regarding bedding of sheep and goats:

"Sheep and goats must not be bedded more than three nights in one season in the same place, except in the case of ewes while lambing; they must not be bedded within 300 yards of any running stream or living spring, except in cases where these restrictions are clearly impracticable."

Owners of sheep grazed in the Wenaha division have maintained for several seasons that the conditions existing on their grazing lands make the one night bedding plan altogether impractical. However, the forest officials apparently have insisted upon a rigid adherence to the one night rule and the local officials have been sustained by the district office, which, in turn, presumably has been supported by the Chief Forester at Washington.

The Washington sheepmen have engaged counsel to present the matter to Secretary Jardine at the earliest date upon which hearing can be obtained.

The following resolution was adopted on December 12th at a special meeting of the Umatilla Permittees Association attended by forty sheepmen of Umatilla, Morrow and Grant counties:

WHEREAS, the Umatilla Permittees Association in special session assembled, has gone on record unanimously opposed to the forestry regulation of compulsory one-night bedding of sheep in the national forest, and

WHEREAS, the Wenaha Wool Growers association has now appealed to the Secretary of Agriculture on the wisdom of enforcing said rule in the national forests:

NOW THEREFORE, be it unanimously resolved by this association that we heartily join the Wenaha Wool Growers in their appeal and that we condemn as impractical, excessively expensive in application, resulting in heavier range losses and of no benefit in conservation of any natural resources, the one-night bedding system.

M. E. STEBBINS, NEW SECRETARY, MONTANA ASSOCIATION

The Montana Wool Growers Association has been contemplating for some time past the employment of a full-time secretary and at its last annual meeting voted in favor of the appointment of such a man. A committee was named to select the new secretary, and this committee has announced that Murray E. Stebbins, county agent in Valley County for the past eight years, has accepted the offer of this position and will take over the work the middle of February.

Mr. Stebbins' education in North Dakota was along agricultural and live



MR. MURRAY E. STEBBINS

stock lines. After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science from the Agricultural College of that state, he was assistant superintendent at the Hettlinger Sub-Experiment Station, which position he left to organize the county farm bureau in Valley County, Montana.

The work of Mr. Stebbins as county agent has received merited recognition. He has been actively interested in all live stock problems, especially in building up and introducing small farm flocks into the county, conducting ram

sales and organizing marketing associations and sheep clubs. A live stock shipping association in Valley County under Mr. Stebbins' direction has proved very successful, with a \$100,000 business this year.

With the loyal support of wool growers, the ability that the new secretary is bringing to the state association should prove of great benefit to the industry of that state and likewise to the organizations of other states and the National Association.

LENGTH OF CALIFORNIA WOOLS

The desirability of increasing the length of wools grown in California is emphasized in a statement issued by the University of California, as having been prepared by Professor J. F. Wilson of the College of Agriculture in that institution.

The California wool clip, amounting to about 16,000,000 pounds annually, does not, as a whole, enjoy an enviable reputation with textile mills. The prejudice of mill men is due primarily to three factors; first, the great diversity of climate and soil conditions under which the wool is grown tends toward a great diversity in the character of the clip; second, a very large proportion of California wool contains various amounts of vegetable matter which renders it less desirable; and third, the practice, in many sections of the state, of shearing twice a year instead of once, makes much of the wool short in staple. Wherever shearing is done twice a year, and in some sections the practice seems warranted, the clip will always contain much wool which is too short to comb and make into worsted goods. But even in sections where sheep are shorn only once every twelve months a great deal of "clothing" or short wool is produced.

The importance of growing long stapled wool can hardly be overestimated, for increasing the length of staple will benefit the producer in four different ways:

(1) Observations at the United States Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho, show a very close relationship

between length of staple and weight of fleece. That is, the longer the wool is the heavier the fleece is, generally speaking.

(2) Wool which is of sufficient length to comb can be made into worsted goods and commands a premium on the market. At the present time the differential in favor of the combing length is about twelve cents per scoured pound or about four cents per pound as the wool comes from the sheep. So the grower, by increasing the length, not only increases the weight of the fleeces but also the value per pound.

(3) By increasing length of staple the shrinkage is reduced. Under the most approved method of selling wool the clip is sold on a shrinkage basis and the less dirt there is in the wool the higher the value becomes. Most of the dirt is found in the "tip" or outside end of the staple. In very short wools the dirt is likely to be distributed throughout the wool, even to the skin of the sheep but the longer wools almost invariably have a considerable proportion of the staple which appears bright and free from excessive dirt.

(4) The increased brightness and loftiness of "life" of the wool resulting from a smaller proportion of dirt enhances the beauty of the clip and makes it more desirable in the eyes of the buyer. Thus there is a more ready sale for it.

Wool growers who are looking toward improvement in the value of their wool clips should use rams which have fairly dense but long staple fleece.

OREGON COLLEGE ADVISES CAUTION IN SHEEP EXPANSION

Considerable expansion has taken place in Oregon's sheep industry. The wool clip of the state was a million pounds more than in 1924, although the average weight per fleece was slightly less than usual.

The Department of Animal Husbandry of the Oregon Agricultural College has sent out a statement as follows: "It is well for farmers who are planning further increases in breed-

ing flocks to consider well the facts that: First, the sheep industry is apparently approaching the point where reduced prices may be expected. Second, ewes are high priced, and considerable credit is necessary to buy them. It is usually not advisable to enter into or greatly expand an industry when it is near a peak. Third, in Oregon sheep may be kept with profit on many farms where they can be used to work out a better balanced system of farming, reasonable care being used in buying breeding ewes. Fourth, in considering a change from beef to sheep, consideration should be given to the possibility that beef prices may trend upward during the next few years, while sheep and wool prices are likely to trend downward."

A NEW SHEARING MACHINE COMB WHICH LEAVES THE SHEEP'S UNDERSHIRT

A great step forward has been achieved in the perfection of a new comb for use on shearing machines, which is designed to leave the required amount of fleece or mohair on the animal to protect it against inclement weather.

Heretofore, some owners of sheep and goats in colder climates have continued the use of hand blades because they felt that the machine did not always leave the required protective covering on the animal, and because by the use of hand blades, they could control the length of fleece allowed to remain on the animal.

This new comb, which is called the Stewart T. L. O. (Take Less Off), now enables all sheep and goat owners to enjoy the full benefits of machine shearing. The teeth of the T. L. O. comb curve immediately beyond the cutting surface where the cutter works. Then they are carried down on an angle to the necessary distance to leave the desired length of wool or mohair. Then they are deflected upward to the extreme point just enough to insure easy traveling and to eliminate any possibility of cutting the animal.

This comb, according to the manufacturer, is no heavier than the ordinary standard comb and it can be re-ground repeatedly without interfering with the original points of the teeth. As a wool grower who was watching during a recent demonstration at College Station, Texas, exclaimed: "It takes off their clothes, but leaves on their undershirt."

The T. L. O. comb has been carefully tested by experts and is pro-



The New High Cutting Stewart T. L. O. Comb

nounced a complete solution of the problem of leaving adequate protection for the animal after it is shorn.

The comb is made in two styles: Style No. 1 is called Stewart No. 1 3/16-inch and is especially designed to travel over wrinkles and for shearing dense-wooled sheep; the Stewart No. 2 T. L. O. 3/8-inch comb is pointed and beveled especially for shearing goats and light open-wooled sheep only.

The Stewart T. L. O. is the invention of a shearing expert of more than thirty years' experience in large shearing sheds in America, Australia, New Zealand and other wool growing countries.

Susanville, Calif.

December has been dry, but not very cold, and feed conditions are as good as can be expected. Quite a lot of sheep have been sold and shipped out of the state during the last two years, and as a result the open range is in better condition than formerly. We are still troubled by coyotes; in fact, they are our worst trouble.

The ewes are in good condition at present. Alfalfa hay is selling at from \$6 to \$8 a ton in the stack. Herders and camp tenders are paid \$100 a month in this section.

J. M. Hagata.

Conditions at the Lamb Markets

CHICAGO

Winter live mutton trade has been unusually and extremely sensitive in striking contrast to the corresponding period last season when the trend was steadily upward. Supply was deficient much of the time, but whenever killers had access to a few more lambs than were actually needed to tide over the day sharp declines occurred. Shippers took good care of the light and handyweight end of the run which was relatively stable and much of the time on a parity with Buffalo, indicating breadth of eastern demand, but heavy lambs ran into frequent squalls. The influence of a good crop of new corn was conspicuously in evidence as the winter advanced, weight accumulating rapidly. December practically cleaned up the 1925 crop of native lambs and the trade will hereafter be dependent on fed westerns. At the end of December heavy lambs ran into a terrific slump, the 95 to 100-pound delegation being set back to a \$14.50@15 basis while anything from 80 pounds down was worth \$16@16.25. Sheep were abnormally scarce, creating a good outlet for more yearlings than the trade expected. Few second hand lambs went back to the country as nearly everything came fat, the few thin lambs available realizing a premium over fat stock. While orderly marketing was the rule, the last two weeks of December developed freak runs that upset the stride of the market.

Top lambs reached \$17.45; yearlings, \$14.50; wethers, \$12; fat ewes, \$10.50 and feeding lambs \$17.75. A feature of the December run was a grist of yearlings, the light end of which went to the trade as lamb, the heavy end filling a gap in mutton supply. The bulk of this yearling crop sold at \$13@14 and none of the product figured in its legitimate guise in dressed trade.

Dressed trade was on an even keel all through the month, good to choice, carcasses selling largely at \$26@30 per hundredweight, with a few trades at

\$31; a year ago it was a \$24@28 trade. Mutton carcasses sold mainly at \$11@16, against \$9@15 a year ago, these prices being attributable to scarcity rather than demand for the product.

The first week choice lambs sold up to \$17.10 on a 25@50-cent advance, sheep gaining 50 cents to \$1. Bulk of the medium and handyweight lambs sold that week at \$16.25@17; fed western lambs above 94 pounds at \$15.50@16. There was an active trade in cull natives at \$12@13, a few shorn lambs selling at \$14.25. Yearlings realized \$13@14; aged wethers \$11@11.75 and fat ewes \$8@9.75 with a \$10 top. Feeders paid \$15.50@16 for their share of the crop, which was small.

During the week ending December 12 a runaway trade early put top lambs at \$17.45, but a 50-cent to \$1 break ensued, heavy stock getting the maximum decline. At the close \$16.50 was the practical limit on lambs, \$15.75@16.25 taking the bulk, heavy lambs going at \$15@15.50. A few shorn lambs sold at \$14.50@14.75. Yearlings broke 75 cents to \$1.00 and sheep 50 cents to 75 cents.

The week of December 19 developed a short supply, prices reacting 25@50 cents, although sheep lost 50 cents. The lamb top was \$16.75, bulk of desirable offerings realizing \$16@16.50, anything scaling 100 pounds and up selling at \$14.50@15.25, heavy buck lambs going at \$14. Lamb weight yearlings reached \$14, the bulk selling between that figure and \$13.50. It was a \$10@11 trade in fat wethers, most of the fat ewes vending at \$8@9. Feeding

lambs sold mainly at \$15.75@16.50, with a \$16.50 top.

The week of December 24 was erratic. Choice 89-pound lambs made \$16.50 on shipping account, the bulk of the fed western offering going at \$16@16.25, the latter price being popular. Cull lambs were on a \$12.50@13.50 basis, 100-pound yearlings earning \$13.50, and fat ewes selling largely at \$8@9.

After a promising start the last week of the month a collapse occurred. On the high spot \$16.75 was paid for light lambs, but \$16.25 took the same kind on the break when \$15.50@16 secured the bulk of the crop, with 95 to 100 pound goods at \$14.50@15. Ewes weighing 110 to 130 pounds sold at \$8.60 to \$9; yearlings at \$13.50@13.75.

Dressed trade was devoid of feature except that during the cold spell, late in December, considerable quantities of weather frozen meat had to be sold regardless of what it realized, upsetting the whole market. Much of the time the clearance has been prompt, every short run of live stock emphasizing the fact that the trade is on a hand-to-mouth basis. At New York choice light wether carcasses sold up to \$25 and even heavy lambs moved readily, wholesalers getting practically the same prices for heavy as for light carcasses. At Boston yearling carcasses wholesaled at \$19@25.

December receipts were light at all markets. Chicago received only 343,000 head, against 410,000 in 1924, while shippers took 110,000, or 50,000 fewer, putting packers on short allowance.

Comparative figures on tops and bulks at the year end follow:

	Sheep		Lamb	
	Top	Bulk	Top	Bulk
1925	\$12.00	\$7.50@ 9.25	\$16.25	\$15.25@16.00
1924	9.65	6.75@ 8.50	17.50	16.25@17.25
1923	8.75	6.50@ 8.50	13.90	12.75@13.50
1922	9.75	6.50@ 9.00	15.35	12.75@13.25
1921	6.50	4.50@ 5.65	12.25	11.25@11.75
1920	6.00	3.50@ 4.75	12.50	10.75@12.40
1919	12.50	10.25@11.50	19.50	18.75@19.25
1918	12.00	9.50@12.00	17.50	16.00@17.25
1917	13.25	11.75@12.50	18.00	17.00@16.65
1916	10.65	9.00@10.50	14.15	13.40@14.00
1915	8.00	6.65@ 7.75	10.90	10.00@10.75

KANSAS CITY

The sheep market in the first half of December was higher than the last half and the highest of the season. The extreme high point \$16.65 was reached in the second week, and from then on there was a general decline that had only slight interruptions. Closing quotations were more than \$1 under the high point of the month and 75 cents under November's close. Last prices on choice fat lambs were \$15.25 to \$15.50. The upward swing in prices that started in late November was halted owing to the fact that demand for dressed lamb and mutton was decreased by the trend towards poultry. This condition remained through the holiday period, but will be eliminated by the middle of January.

In a general way the December lamb prices were below expectations, but considering prices for other classes of live stock they were relatively high. Demand, though sufficient to absorb the offerings readily, lacked the necessary urgency to bring a rising market. During the month the price movement for choice lambs was between \$15.25 and \$16.65 with an estimated average of \$15.75 to \$16.00. Comparatively little culling and less than a normal price spread daily were in evidence.

The bulk of the fat lambs received came from the San Luis Valley. Some consignments were reported from the Arkansas Valley and northern Colorado and a few from Idaho. The general movement from western Nebraska and Colorado will be under way in early January. Quality of the offerings is above the average. Lambs went into feed lots in good condition and they are hard fat after a comparatively short feeding period. Another noticeable fact is that lambs have fattened uniformly and killers have been able to buy many large consignments without sorts. Feeders report weight gains satisfactory and if they are able to clear feed lots with no larger sorting than prevailed in December they will find the average price favorable.

C. M. Pipkin.

ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for the month numbered 98,027, compared with 38,594 last month, and 79,177 for December, 1924. Receipts for the year 1925 were 1,142,857, the largest in the history of the yards, and 54,126 more than 1924, the previous banner year. The lamb market has been up and down throughout the month and closes with the best fed offerings at \$15.50, showing a loss of 50 cents compared with a month ago. The high point of the month was \$16.65, and the low point was \$15.40. Best natives sold at \$15 on the close, and clips were quoted around \$14. Feeding lambs sold \$15@16 during the month with quotations up to \$15.25 on the close. Yearlings sold \$12.75@13.85 during the period, with \$13 the closing top. Wethers ranged mostly \$9.50@10.50, ewes up to \$9 on late days.

H. H. Madden.

THE RADIO AND MARKET STABILIZATION

Now comes the radio as a market disturber, a factor heretofore outside the sphere of concern of stabilizers. That radioed market information actually affects values may be treated with skepticism and yet December's ups and downs were attributed solely to that agency. This is how it functions:

On Monday of Christmas week the market was healthy and visible supply limited. At noon the broadcasters began howling and trouble ensued. Chicago sent out an estimate of 9,000 for Tuesday, which was all that was in sight at that time, but when feeders within a radius of 100 miles were apprised of this prospect they promptly ordered cars, rushed lambs to loading stations and when the trade awoke Tuesday morning it found 21,000 on hand instead of the expected 9,000. The government estimator was taken to task for making a bad guess whereas the broadcaster was solely responsible. Complaint has heretofore been made that the country has not been in pro-

per contact with the market; the radio has established such close connection as to produce unexpected and disastrous results as packers promptly proceeded to take advantage of the opportunity. The damage had been done when the run was started; when it reached the market the point of retrieve had been passed. Prices declined 75 cents to \$1.50 per hundredweight, on that particular Tuesday, but by Thursday the damage had been practically all repaired.

Here is a new nut for the price stabilizers to crack, provided they are still wrestling with an apparently, if not obviously insolvable problem. That dispensing market information by radio cannot be restrained will be admitted and all the broadcaster can do is state facts. Giving advice as to loading is out of the question, so that shippers must be left to their own initiative. A good market with a light estimate for the following day naturally furnishes incentive to load, possible with ovine or bovine stock which moves with celerity whereas 24 hours is needed to get hogs on the rails. This explains why both cattle and sheep markets have been so erratic recently. Probably it would not have happened in the sheep market had supply within a one-night haul of Chicago not been ample, but it was and feeders were looking for a good spot to get in on, too many of them landing at the same time. Add another to the reasons why prices go up and down.

J. E. Poole.

[The situation described by Mr. Poole raises a question as to the advisability of attempting to improve market conditions under a plan of withholding facts. There is also to be considered the securing of better action on the part of the shippers and their salesmen to send supplies in accordance with known facts. As stated by Mr. Poole, in this case there was a disorderly and injurious movement from the feeding stations, apparently without any attempt at co-operation among the selling houses who ordered in the cars.—Editor.]

DO NOT TAKE THE RAMS OUT TOO SOON

W. E. Joseph, Montana Experiment Station

Three years of lambing records on 384 to 404 grade fine wool range ewes indicate that the minimum "bucking" season for ewes two years old and over is 35 and preferably 40 days and for yearling ewes 40 and preferably 45 days. Assuming a cut of five days or less, each day by which the season is shortened under 35 days for mature ewes seemed to reduce the lamb crop one-half per cent, or, under 40 days for yearlings, to reduce the crop one per cent. The five extra days above 35 to 40 days respectively seemed to increase the crop one per cent for mature ewes and two per cent for yearlings. If conditions permit it is desirable to keep the rams with the ewes 50 to 55 days.

These statements are based entirely on the rate of lambing. Of course the gestation period varies a few days so that the results are not clean cut, but they are of enough significance that they should not be ignored. Taking the lower figure of one-half per cent per day, the total drop during the 31st to the 35th days would be 50 lambs in a band of 2,000 ewes.

These results were obtained under very favorable conditions, each ram having had his own pen of 55 to 65 ewes with the exception of one year during which two pens of 115 ewes each were served by two rams per pen.

During two years the mature ewes were at the peak of the lambing season from the 6th to the 20th days after the lambing season began, while the height of the season for the yearlings extended from the 9th to the 24th days. It is practically certain that the mature ewes which were safely bred at the first heat period had not all lambed before the 20th day and it is probable that a number of them ran into the four or five days following during which there was a fairly large drop of lambs.

If all of the mature ewes are to be

given a second chance it is quite evident that 35 days would be the minimum breeding season and that 40 days would be preferable. The results also

indicate that yearling ewes of fine wool breeding should be given a "bucking" season at least five days longer than is provided for mature ewes.

The Boston Wool Market

By Henry A. Kidder

December has been a month of uncertainty as to movement of wool and trend of the market, with considerable fluctuations in prices. That the outlook of Summer Street regarding the new year is reasonably optimistic is patent to any one who makes even a casual survey of the situation.

The old year brought a long drawn period of liquidation, and in the case of certain stocks of foreign wools the liquidation has not yet been completed. Possibly this condition of foreign stocks may be something more than balanced by the depleted condition of stocks of domestic sorts in the Boston market. Upon that point there is no dispute. Summer Street is carrying over into the New Year the smallest actual supply of domestic wool recorded for a long time, if the predictions of the large handlers are correct.

The last six months of 1925 showed a moderate stabilization, with no more disturbance than might naturally be expected to result from the occasional shifts in demand and market conditions. The trade is looking forward into the coming year with keen interest in two possible developments. These are the way that the goods market opens up when the new heavy-weight lines are ready to be shown, and the probable course of prices at the coming auctions in London and the Colonies.

Upon the first of these points, chief interest hinges on whether the trend toward the worsted side of the market is to continue prominent and possibly become more pronounced as the season advances. If worsteds are to continue to gain in popularity, it means that the coming year will be an excellent one for the finer wools. In fact, many are already saying that the de-

mand for worsteds is likely to broaden, possibly becoming the most prominent feature of the heavyweight season.

In this contingency it is certain that supplies of fine wools must be greatly increased to meet the needs of American worsted mills. This naturally attracts particular attention to the fact that practically no contracting has yet been done in the West, where a year ago, the Territory clip was practically 50 per cent under contract. There is still some old wool in western pools and unsold by individual flockmasters, but this will cut very little figure when the enormous needs of the mills come to be considered. Therefore, foreign sources are likely to be drawn upon freely, unless eastern buyers and western growers get together at a reasonably early date.

A moderate rally in Australian markets just before the close for Christmas holidays was noted, but up to that time sales were being made at figures that made Merinos compete very strongly with domestic fine wools in the Boston market, including both fleeces and Territory fine staple. Many believe that Australian markets have been stabilized, and that only minor fluctuations are to be expected during the second half of the wool year. This feeling persists, in spite of the fact that there is a general belief that the amount of available wool for the auctions from January to July has been over-estimated, and that it will be impossible to carry out the scheduled program in full.

Good 64s to 70s combing Australian are quoted here at \$1.10 to \$1.15 in bond, clean basis, and similar wools could be bought in Australia in early December and laid down here for less money. Duty paid, this would mean a

cost to the mills of \$1.40 to \$1.45. Ohio delaines shrinking 60 per cent and selling at 53 to 54 cents would cost clean \$1.32½ to \$1.35. Good Australian combing 64s would cost \$1.05 to \$1.10 clean in bond, or \$1.35 to \$1.40 duty paid. From whatever angle the observer approaches the problem, it is certain that even a small decline in Australian markets will mean an increased competition for domestic wools from that direction.

This is not the cry of the alarmist. It is an axiom in business that buyers flock to the cheapest markets, other things being equal. Therefore, American flockmasters must be prepared to encounter more or less serious opposition in the marketing of their 1926 clip. Nor can a little desultory mill buying be depended upon to establish market prices in the West above the parity of the world's markets. As soon as it is understood that their buyers are paying too much for their wools, directors and managers are sure to ask why. It is already being reported that some of the recent buying of old clip wools in Oregon, California and elsewhere is being criticised severely, on the score that similar wools of equal usefulness could have been bought for less money in the East.

Contracting may break out at any time, though it is claimed that all the gambling profit possible to be derived from contracting has been squeezed out in recent operations. It is said here that what prevents free contracting at the moment is the matter of price. Buyers must be shown a profit now or later, and that is lacking up to the present time. Considerable pressure is being brought to bear on eastern dealers to start a movement, but it is doubtful if a single actual contract was made before the end of the year. There has been something done in the way of winter loans, and some settlement of previous advances have been made, but of genuine contracts, none at all.

Undoubtedly local men in the field would be glad to see contracting go forward on a large scale. Their work

would be made much easier, and they would be relieved of praise or blame provided the contract clips proved to be either lighter or heavier than expected. In one way, at least, the grower gets considerable advantage from his contract. However bad the winter may prove to be, he gets a fixed price for all the wool he delivers at the railroad siding, with a liberal advance to help him through the winter.

There is nothing new about these points, but the shifts of time give them particular application. Students of wool matters are uncertain as to what may be expected in the near future. The beginning of 1926 finds one change that may be considered favorable or unfavorable, according to the viewpoint of the observer. A year ago, wool prices were at or near the top of a general advance the world over. Now that advance has all been lost, and only a moderate recovery has been noted from the mid-year level.

It may be true, as some are thinking, that fine wools are to have considerable vogue during the coming season, but that has not yet had any perceptible effect upon medium grades. Those continue in good demand, as considerable use is found for them, especially in goods where rayon is used for certain effects. The result is a continuation of the active demand for Montevideo crossbreds. This has naturally brought about a trend toward a high price level, both in Boston and in River Plate markets.

Considerable Montevideo wool is still held in this market, and quite recently there has been a move by a knot of local operators to give the market a little boost. At the same time similar effect is noted as having been made upon the Buenos Aires market, both that market and Montevideo advancing fully 2 cents a pound during the last two weeks in December.

The wool trade is looking forward to a series of auction events in London and the Colonies, beginning with Melbourne January 4 and continuing at Sydney January 11 and followed by the opening of the first series of the Lon-

don wool sales for 1926, January 19. Other auctions are to be sandwiched in, with a certainty that there is to be no lack of wool offered for sale during the month of January. Whether the December price list can be maintained in the face of these liberal offerings is the question.

Prices in the Boston market at the end of the year were largely nominal. Offerings of domestic wool were small, and there was a disposition to shade prices a little, if thereby sales could be made. Territory wool prices are difficult of measuring, owing to the actual lack of sales. In some houses prices are being held quite stiffly, while others would gladly see some recession in prices, if it were possible to replenish stocks upon a lower level.

It is believed that around \$1.30 clean is a fair price for fine and fine medium staple Territory wool, though there are possibly some lots on the market that would not bring over \$1.25. Half-blood staple is quoted at about \$1.20 for the best wools, and \$1.15 to \$1.18 for New Mexico and Colorado wools. Good French combing wools are selling at around \$1.25 to \$1.28, and short clothing wools at \$1.15 to \$1.20.

Medium Territory wools have held their place in the price column much better than the finer grades. There has been a steady demand for them at all times, and some manufacturers and dealers have been forced to go West to replenish their stocks. This is supposed to explain the interest shown last month in the Idaho wools offered at Portland, Oregon, for account of the First National Bank of Boise. There all the bids were refused, and part of the wools were sold later at prices that would make the three-eighths-blood staple cost \$1.02 to \$1.04 clean landed Boston. In this market, the current quotation is \$1.05 to \$1.10, which shows that the prices realized for the above offering was fully up to the parity of the Boston market. For the quarter-blood staple wools the current quotation is 95 cents to \$1, with this grade quite scarce in this market.

There is some difference of opinion

as to value of Ohio and similar fleeces. This does not apply to the three-eighths-blood and quarter-blood combing grades, for these are still strongly held at 55 cents, with small stocks available. Some holders are holding their half-blood combing at 55 cents, and a sale was reported in the closing days of the year at that figure. Others say that they are unable to get that price, and are inclined to say that the better quotation is 54 cents. In the same way there is some difference of opinion over delaine values. It is probable that the better lots have been pretty well picked away, and that the way that the market is hesitating between 53 and 54 cents for this grade has considerable to do with quality.

Selling of the fall wool clip in Texas has been held up by a sort of deadlock between eastern buyers and growers. At last report something like 2,225,000 pounds of the current fall clip were still unsold in that state. Buyers were getting a little wool at 36 to 37 cents and occasionally more, with most growers still standing out for 40 cents. The demand for these wools has subsided, as most of the large buyers have already obtained their full quota. In this market, current prices of Texas wools on the clean basis are \$1.25 to \$1.28 for twelve-months', \$1.12 to \$1.15 for eight-months', and around \$1 for fall wools.

From the above an idea may be obtained as to the uncertainty which rules in this market as to what may be expected of the future. Many believe that France still holds the key to the situation. If her buyers continue to operate freely in London and Australian auctions, it is believed that it will be a comparatively easy matter to sustain prices. France is having lots of trouble financially and politically, and it is a question how long she can find cash or credit to finance large purchases of Merinos. Bradford is feeling better, but the situation in that center is by no means cleared. Altogether the situation at home and abroad is improving, though there are still knotty problems to be solved.

THE MELBOURNE JANUARY 4TH AUCTION

The wools sales of the new year opened in Australia at Melbourne, on January 4. Cables from Australia advise that England and America were the chief operators. Good wools were reported firm on the basis of closing rates of the last sale, and lower qualities were slightly off in price. Competition was good and a general better tone prevailed.

IDAHO WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION TO FORM FINANCE CORPORATION

Announcement recently made in the Weekly Bulletin published by the Idaho Wool Growers Association is to the effect that the association will form a non-stock, non-profit Idaho Finance Corporation to be run in connection with the association as is now being done in Montana and Wyoming.

This action followed the submission of the report of Secretary McLean upon his investigations recently made at the eastern wool markets. Under the proposed plan advances could be obtained through the corporation upon wools consigned direct to Boston and held in storage at that point.

The incorporators of the new body are: Eugene Picket, Oakley; J. Arthur Orme, Idaho Falls; Ben Darrah, Shoshone; James Farmer, Bliss; and Robert Blastock, Filer, Idaho. The National Wool Exchange has been designated the association's agency in Boston.

OREGON'S TRANSIENT LIVE STOCK LAW

At the last session of the Oregon legislature a law was passed which is operating to obstruct the movement into Oregon of sheep from neighboring states. Owners of sheep grazed in Washington have instituted proceedings against the constitutionality of the Oregon law. There appears to be

some question in the minds of Oregon stock owners as to the fairness of the new law. It has been announced that the entire subject will be fully discussed at the annual convention of the Oregon Wool Growers Association to be held at Pendleton, Oregon, January 22-23.

OREGON FEEDING EXPERIMENTS

(Continued from page 34.)

the time it is intended to market the lambs. If the lambs are small and thin this grain feeding should cover a longer period, say ninety to a hundred days. On the other hand, if in an extra good condition it may be reduced somewhat.

Taking all factors into consideration, they state, it is believed quite practical for the alfalfa farmer to feed lambs for a time on hay alone, depending upon the increased market price paid for the hay, in the meantime postponing the feeding of grain until sixty to a hundred days before he intends marketing. These lambs should go on the market not later than the middle of April or they might run into spring and a break in the market.

To check on the common practice of running lambs on stubble fields, hay meadows, and alfalfa fields, Professors Dean and Potter ran a lot of feeder lambs on such pasture for fifty-seven days and then finished out on alfalfa and a pound of grain daily for seventy-five days. While on pasture these lambs gained a little more than those fed hay only, but did not get fat. The conclusion was that such pasture should be considered the equivalent to hay alone, that is, it will hold the lambs for a later market and returns may be obtained only from an increased price. They conclude that the use of such fall pasture for holding lambs for a later market is a desirable practice if the farmers realize that it is a holding proposition only, and that the lambs will not start to get fat until grain is fed.

F. L. Ballard.
Corvallis, Ore.

FEED CONDITIONS IN OREGON

Dry weather has prevailed in all parts of Oregon during the fall months, and fall pastures have been cut down somewhat. On the whole, however, there has been plenty of fall feed and feed prospects for the winter are excellent. The hay supply seems adequate. Although the total crop of alfalfa, clover and vetch in the state is probably less than normal owing to the freeze last winter, many of the more important livestock districts have harvested large tonnages of wild hay and on the high desert of central Oregon a big tonnage of rye hay was produced. Thus, in the more important livestock districts feed supplies are entirely adequate. In fact, here and there is found an assured surplus. In Klamath County the live stock has not been available to utilize the fall feed, and a good many more head of stock could have been handled in the Tule Lake region.

Uinta County, Wyoming

Near Evanston

11,153 acres—excellent sheep grazing. Bear River crosses tract.

Price for quick sale: \$3.00 per acre.

Reasonable terms.

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Best Sheep in Best Sheep Country For Sale Columbia River Valley, Washington.

Winter mild. Lambing percentage high. Feed early and good. Water plentiful. Railroad on land. Unlimited alfalfa acreage nearby for early lambing feed. Mutton lambs are shipped in transit to summer ranges then direct to eastern markets where they bring top prices.

Possibilities unlimited to young men with experience and backing. Deeded land 14,448 acres at low price and long terms. Sale carries with it on small rental basis about same acreage of State and private leases, making almost a square township.

Undersigned will be at Boise Wool Growers' Convention January 18 and 19. Will leave hotel address with Convention Secretary.

HARRY J. NEELY.

205 Exchange Bank Building, Spokane, Washington.

In the Klamath Falls district alfalfa was selling in the middle of November at \$7 to \$8 in the stack, depending upon location. Hay within five or six miles of the city of Klamath Falls was somewhat higher than usual. This price is topped a little further north in central Oregon, sales in the Prineville district having been made at about a dollar more. Close to shipping points the price has been \$10, going on board the car baled at \$13. This price holds pretty generally through the Redmond and Bend districts. In the Lakeview district they talk about \$8, but there is practically no hay moving as everyone seems to be supplied.

In the Blue Mountain district some six hundred tons of wild hay sold early in the fall at \$9 in the stack. Wild hay and alfalfa run about dollar for dollar in that district. In Malheur County along the Snake River \$8 and \$10 has been paid, depending upon location and considerations such as feed lots, pasture, etc. Considerable uneasiness is expressed over the outlook in that district, a good deal of opinion being to the effect that hay prices may be lower. Generally unless severe weather sets in early, quotations may be a little lower.

Corvallis, Ore.

F. L. Ballard

LAMB TRADE PROBABILITIES

What has happened in the lamb market recently recalls the spectacular trade of December, 1924, and January, 1925, for which the Eastern poultry embargo was partly responsible. In December, 1924, lambs advanced \$2@2.25 per hundredweight, yearlings \$3@3.25, and sheep \$1@1.50, woolled lambs reaching \$19.25; shorn lambs, \$15; yearlings, \$17.50; wethers, \$11.50; fat ewes, \$10, and feeding lambs, \$17. During January the major part of the fat lamb supply sold above \$18; yearlings above \$17; wethers reached \$12.25, and feeding lambs \$18.25, but the thing was too good to last. It not only stimulated speculative feeding, but put a crimp in consumption, eastern chain store operators entering an agreement to handle

neither lamb nor mutton at the prices and buying newspaper space to advertise the fact. While prices have not soared to the high altitude of last January, lamb at least has been getting into the luxury category insuring curtailment of consumption. A limited number of consumers will buy lamb, and even mutton at any price, but when dressed lamb reaches a 25@30 cent wholesale basis many retailers cancel orders. Once off the tab, replacement is so slow that a period of abnormally high prices is invariably followed by a disastrous reaction.

At the end of the year both lamb and mutton have the earmarks of occupying strong statistical positions. The Department of Agriculture is on record with a guess that winter feeding will be around 300,000 head less than last season. This has not elicited audible criticism, in fact any government report indicating decreased production is invariably well received. Consensus of trade opinion is that the number of lambs on feed early in December was considerably less than a year ago. Deficiency in northern Colorado is not serious, operators in that section having gone to Nebraska, where feed is plentiful. East of Chicago the usual number of lambs did not go in, consequently they will not come out. Michigan balked at the prices, got few during the regular season and has been skirmishing around in an effort partly to fill feed barns for weeks past. Ohio and Indiana engaged considerable Texas stuff, but as neither state got the usual quota of northwestern lambs they cannot be considered long by any means. Lambs that go into territory east of Chicago under new conditions do not exert the same influence on prices when they return to market as a few years back when Buffalo and Jersey City were the principal depositaries. Under the new dispensation they are distributed between such points as Cleveland, Detroit, Columbus and several others where the product is consumed locally. Buffalo has ceased to be a price-making factor on this account. Formerly a heavy run of

lambs at Buffalo in the winter season exerted the same depressing influence as a gob of natives at Jersey City, the bulk of the offering being shipped from Buffalo to New York for slaughter. Such lambs as Detroit, Cleveland and other points get disappear there, compelling New York to wire orders to Chicago. Between Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Columbus and a few lesser local points the entire feeding of Michigan and Ohio is readily absorbed. Ten years ago neither Detroit nor Cleveland consumed much lamb, but an increase in population with higher wages, has affected a radical change.

Wisconsin, Iowa and Indiana have some lambs, but no considerable number. Probably they will have disappeared by the time Colorados begin running and unless a new source of feeder supply develops replacement will be impossible. The general disposition among farmer feeders in territory east of the Missouri River is to cash early, especially where the stuff is running in the open, so that by the time Colorado and Nebraska are in a position to load freely farmer feeders will have unloaded. In Michigan where barn feeding is the rule few lambs have been acquired, probability being that after the turn of the year the entire cost will be dependent on western feedlots.

One bullish feature, not generally recognized, is a set of empty feeding stations adjacent to the central markets which prevents commission men from ordering stuff in when prices advance. Had the big barns at Kirkland, Montgomery and other stations close to Chicago contained the same number of lambs as a year ago, the advance of \$1 per hundredweight late in November would have been impossible as enough stuff would have been ordered in overnight to relieve the supply situation. Packers evidently sense what is likely to happen as they are creating a reserve stock on which to fall back in such emergencies. Late in November Swift bought practically all the feeding lambs offered at Kansas City, sending them to a near-by feedlot to be

feed for the account of the concern.

It is evident that the visible winter supply is insufficient to damage prices if any sort or orderly marketing is possible. With native and farmer-fed stuff out of the way this should not be difficult, although lambs feeders have a habit of getting into stampedes. Swift knowledge of bovine matters is proverbially good and the fact that the principal concern in dressed mutton trade is putting out a sheet anchor is significant.

So far feeders have encountered nothing savoring of hardship. Even when western lambs have been sent from cornfields back to market without making gains other feeders have paid a premium to get the stuff. Many lambs fed 100 days under adverse physical conditions, that were taken out at \$13@13.25, weighing 73 to 74 pounds have returned, weighing 90 to 94 pounds, to earn \$15.50@15.75. Heavy lambs may be taken out early provided good gains are made, and returned to market in November and December, to make money, but carrying them into the new year is a dangerous operation. Under present conditions the element of profit margin in feeding may be ignored if maximum gains are made. When gain earns 16 to 16¾ cents per pound the feeder has something tangible to rely on, especially if he is capable of putting on 25 to 30 pounds.

What killers will do to the heavy lamb along in February and March must be left to conjecture. Under limited supply conditions they will be under the necessity of buying for numbers, relieving weight from the discrimination. Give buyers a short crop and they overlook heavy lambs. When picking was easy back in October buck native lambs were thrown out and severely penalized; late in November buyers could not see 25 per cent of bucks in a load of native lambs, the tail going with the hide. When supply is ample culling is vigorous; otherwise throw-outs are scarce. The heavy lamb is a late winter problem, usually serious when feed is cheap and plentiful or the market is mean. It may be minimized

FOR SALE

1822 two-year-old white face ewes grazing in Flathead Indian Reservation. Ewes are bred to Hampshire Bucks to lamb April 20. Sheep on good range and in good condition.

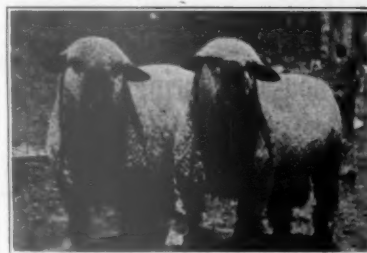
Price, \$15.50 per head f.o.b. Dixon, Montana.

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I have been a breeder for forty years and owned King Mammoth, the sire of McQueen, said to be the largest mule in the United States, with a weight of 2200 lbs. This is the blood I breed.

In the history of the United States, never before has there been such a shortage in mules. A mule famine is not far distant and then prices will soar. Jacks will follow.

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They have the type; they have the vigor; they are superior.

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One of our stud rams.

We believe that the big ram with a long staple fleece that has density and fineness and is free from body wrinkles and kemp is the ideal ram for the range.

If that is the kind of a Rambouillet ram you like, see our offering of 11(0) yearlings in 1926.

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Deer Lodge, Montana.

*Have You Read Our Premium Offer
on Page Seven of This Issue*

CROSS TIES, TANKS AND TON MILES

The average revenue received by Southern Pacific in 1924 for hauling a ton of freight one mile was a fraction less than 1.4 cents.

The average freight service expenses for hauling a ton of freight one mile were a fraction less than one cent.

This left a gross profit to the railroad of four-tenths of a cent.

Not counting the portion of this gross profit that must be taken to meet fixed charges, equipment rentals, etc., Southern Pacific has to haul from 222 to 280 tons of freight one mile in order to buy a fir crosstie. It would have to do still more work to pay for creosoting the tie and placing it in the track.

On this basis, to pay the company's tax bill of \$19,867,104 in 1924, the company had to haul nearly five million tons of freight a distance of 1000 miles.

This would be equivalent to operating 3311 trains, of fifty cars each, loaded with 30 tons of freight to a car, from San Francisco to beyond Tucson, Arizona.

This indicates the enormous amount of service that must be rendered by a railroad in order to pay its operating expenses and maintain its property and equipment, pay its huge tax bill, its interest charges and provide some return for the owners of the property.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY

by topping out, and buying heavy feeders on a basis that will discount the possible penalty at the fat stage. If the winter market continues the pace acquired early in the season the heavy lamb problem will take care of itself as the crop will go to market early.

Guessing where the winter high spot will appear is popular indoor sport around the sheep house. Assuming that the crop is light and the market in shape to discourage protracted feeding it should develop late as little opportunity exists to lay in lambs for late feeding. Had they been available another 250,000 could have been sent out of Chicago. Early in November a sheep house trader sent a man into Michigan and Indiana to solicit feeding lamb orders. In two weeks he picked up commissions for 50,000 at current prices, but was called in just the getting was good, the market advancing and his principal getting no response from wires to western points asking for lambs. Heretofore it has been possible to fill the big feeding barns by doing a little skirmishing in the west, but that is over.

Early bidding, if not trading, on the new lamb crop is certain. The germ of speculation is active. Much has been said about increasing lamb supplies, but unless a miracle can be invoked the rehabilitation process will be slow. The fact is now recognized that certain interests responsible for ill-advised liquidation of a number of big western sheep outfits not only displayed doubtful judgment, but made heavy financial sacrifice by lack of foresight and confidence. Had the competent sheepmen involved in post war liquidation been carried along, their organizations kept intact and their earning capacity maintained recent regeneration of the industry would have enabled them to pay out and kept them in the business, whereas elimination has merely aggravated the existing shortage. Unless something unforeseen happens the 1926 lamb crop will realize good money, an early speculative furore being within the range of possibility.

J. E. Poole.

COOPERATIVE WOOL MARKET- ING DOUBLED IN SIX YEARS

Wool has been sold cooperatively by farmers and ranchers in the United States for half a century or more. The oldest cooperative wool marketing organization in existence is believed to be the Putnam County Wool Growers Association of Greencastle, Ind. Farmers in that locality have been selling wool cooperatively since 1885. There is little doubt, according to the Department of Agriculture, that the beginning of cooperative wool marketing in this country dates back considerably farther than the available records go.

Nevertheless, the largest growth in the wool cooperative movement has taken place in the last six years. There was but little increase in the number of wool cooperative associations in the ten years prior to 1919. Since that year, however, the number has more than doubled. Moreover, about 75 per cent of the wool handled cooperatively in 1924 was handled by regional or state-wide organizations. Twenty-two associations of this type, operating in twenty-two states, handled nearly 12,500,000 pounds of wool in 1924. Their total membership was in the neighborhood of 30,000.

Cooperative handling of wool is facilitated by the fact that the commodity is practically non-perishable. Another advantage is that wool selling is not a complicated business. Sometimes a single sale will dispose of a year's output for a large number of wool growers. These features of the crop have often enabled wool growers to cooperate in marketing without any formal organization, and without any large amount of capital. Local wool cooperatives have frequently followed this method. In recent years, however, the rise of state and regional associations has called for a greater measure of formal organization, says the Department of Agriculture.

Fairly comprehensive data have just been compiled by the department regarding active wool marketing associations in all parts of the United States.

Montana Wool Growers!

We sold more Wool Bags and Fleece Twine in 1925 than ever before. We thank you for your patronage.

We specialize in 64-ounce, hemmed top, jute oversized Bags made especially for us by Bemis; and 4-ply Paper Fleece Twine; a combination that affords the wool grower the best there is. We can also supply 4-ply Jute Fleece Twine.

ASK US FOR PRICES.

We also distribute
"Black Leaf 40" Sheep Dip.
Kemp's Branding Liquid—3 Colors.
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Write for Prices.

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Established in 1867.

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We Make and Recommend CHOROLEUM

The High-Grade Coal-Tar Dip

For Ticks, Lice, Mange and General Disinfecting

Ask for Circular No. 303 and the Big 6 Price List, which gives the uses and prices of all our products useful to the stockgrower and feeder. It's free.

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The National Wool Grower

Single Subscriptions \$1.50 per year.
Through your State Association \$1.00.

SHIP OR OFFER YOUR SHEEP TO HELLMAN BROS. 104 N. MAIN ST. ST. LOUIS, MO.

DELAINE MERINOS

Merino sheep grow the most wool, are the hardiest and best rangers in the world. The DELAINE is the Merino bred smooth or nearly so. They are good size, blocky built, thrifty growers and easily herded. Have long dense fleeces of fine fiber and crimp with oil enough to make it soft and silky.

If you want to GROW MORE WOOL, with a longer staple and a denser fleece, cross your range ewes with Delaine-Merino Bucks.

I have 200 large thrifty yearlings, in fine range condition, sired by rams that shear 30 to 32 pounds. Crossed on Open Woolled ewes will double your wool production. Others have done it. Why not you?

Write for photos or come and see, The Best Bunch of Bucks in Ohio. Will sell you one or a carload.

FRANK H. RUSSELL, Box 80, Wakeman, Ohio.



SUFFOLK SHEEP

Wonderful crossing sheep. Very prolific, quick to mature, hardy and alert. Finest quality mutton with plenty of lean meat.

RESERVE CHAMPIONS SMITHFIELD, 1924.

The most popular crossing sheep today. Particulars: Secretary, Suffolk Sheep Society, 24 Princess Street, Ipswich, England.



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CALIFORNIA RAMBOUILLETS

My Rambouillets are large, smooth and well covered with heavy fleeces of long white wool. They are bred in a high dry, country and are very hardy. I have 2000 one and two-year-old rams for this season. If you visit California, call and see my flocks. My prices are reasonable and my rams will suit the range country.

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POLLED RAMBOUILLETS



My offerings:
425 Yearling Rams, all eligible to registration, and over half polled.
6 Registered Percheron Stallions, 3 years old.
Matched teams of Registered Percheron mares.

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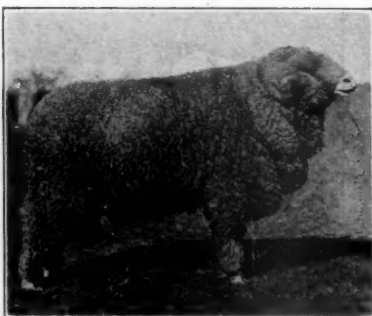
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Sheep outfit complete, with 5500 breeding ewes and ewe lambs from same. For price and particulars

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Raup's Ohio Rambouillets



Sire in Service—C. P. Raup, 616

NOW OFFERING

A few Top Yearling Rams. 20 Yearling Ewes. 60 Ewes, mixed ages.

All ewes offered safely in lamb to sire shown above.

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R. D. 10

It has detailed reports from sixty-eight organizations located in thirty-two states. Twenty-seven of these associations are independent locals. Twenty-two are regional or state-wide pools, one is a sales agency doing a national business, eleven are associations that handle wool only incidentally, and seven are educational or service organizations.

Eighteen of the twenty-seven independent local cooperative associations have been organized since 1916. Nearly 4,000,000 pounds of wool was handled in 1924 by the twenty-seven independent local associations. Ohio has more wool producers in cooperative associations than any other state. Oregon holds the second place in this respect, and Indiana, South Dakota, New York, Tennessee and West Virginia follow in the order given. Five regional associations in 1924 each had a membership exceeding 1,500. The other associations of this type had memberships of less than 1,500. Wool cooperative associations in twenty-nine states handled 16,323,594 pounds of wool in 1924, compared with 19,647,861 pounds in 1923, and 10,922,700 pounds in 1922.

Evidence of the extent to which wool cooperation has been consolidated in recent years is given by the fact that 68 per cent of the total quantity of wool handled cooperatively in 1924 was handled by seven associations. On the other hand, twenty-two small associations handled only four per cent of the total. The seven associations whose operations accounted for 68 per cent of the total wool sold cooperatively each handled more than 500,000 pounds. Thirty-eight other associations handled less than 500,000 pounds each.

Regional or state-wide cooperative marketing of wool started about 1918. Its advent was hastened by the fact that during the war the government fixed prices for wool and urged growers to assemble their fleeces at local points for shipment in carlots to central markets. As prices were fixed growers had a strong incentive to hold distributing costs down to the minimum. State-wide wool marketing as-

sociations accordingly were organized in 1918 in Ohio and Michigan, and in the following year in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas. In 1920 state-wide pools were formed in Maine, North Dakota and Wisconsin, and in 1921 pools were organized in Indiana, Virginia, and southwestern Texas. In some cases these pools were run at first without formal organization among the growers. Later, however, most of them developed into special associations functioning solely in wool marketing.

In 1921 what is now the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers Association was formed at Portland, Oregon. Intended at first to serve only the wool growers of Oregon, it achieved such success that its field of operations was rapidly extended to include Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada and California. This association warehouses the fleeces of its members at Portland and San Francisco, grades and sorts the wool, scours some of it, and makes sales direct to the textile mills. It had a membership of 2,695 persons in 1924, and handled 3,500,000 pounds of wool in that year.

Several experiments in cooperative wool distribution by sales agencies at strategic points have been made. One such agency, known as the National Wool Warehouse & Storage Co., was set up in Chicago in 1909, with a capital largely contributed by wool growers in a number of western states. This concern sold wool for cooperative associations in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Montana and South Dakota, and also handled individual consignments from other states. It became embarrassed financially, however, because of over-advances made on wool received in 1920, and its assets are now being liquidated. Recently another sales agency planning operations on a nation-wide scale has been formed with headquarters at Helena, Mont. It proposes to furnish grading and selling service for regional and state pools, and also for independent local associations and individual wool producers. This concern is known as the National Wool Exchange. Several other large selling agencies are furnishing similar service.

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BREEDERS OF FINE WOOL RAMBOUILLET SHEEP



"Son of Ted"
Sold L. N. Marsden, Parowan, Utah, in
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FLOCK FOUNDED IN 1875

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MONTANA RAMBOUILLETS

I will have the usual number of pure bred Rambouillet Rams to offer for the 1925 season. These are bred from a pure bred Delaine ewe foundation and registered Rambouillet rams. They carry a very dense fleece and are large in size.

I will also have a number of yearling and lamb rams bred from the same kind of ewes and Lincoln registered rams. These are what you want if your wool is getting too short.

And 550 head of purebred Rambouillet ewe lambs.

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Is commanding nation-wide attention. It is composed of sheep possessing mutton form and Merino fleece. Sheep and wool experts have paid high tribute to the quality, uniformity and length and density of their fleeces.

To produce this type of sheep, scientific methods have been employed in mating our ewes with rams very carefully selected from America's leading flocks. We have done considerable line breeding.

Witness our accomplishments at the Salt Lake Ram Sale.

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Champion Rambouillet Ram in 1924 at International (Chicago), Royal (Kansas City) and Wyoming and Colorado State Fairs

1924 American Royal	1924 International
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2nd and 4th Ram Lamb	2nd
1st Pen Ram Lambs	1st
1st and 3rd Ewe Lamb	2nd and 4th
2nd Pen 3 Ewe Lambs	1st
1st Flock	2nd
No award Get of Sire	1st
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Topped every class in Rambouillets at Salt Lake Sale—1925.

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Grand Champion 1920-1921-1922. His Son was Grand Champion 1923-24-25 and sheared 54 lbs. of wool